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ROOF RIDERS
A CONCRETE BLOW FOR INDONESIA'S ILLEGAL COMMUTERS {pages 18-19}

PAULINA GRETZKY
SINGER HEADING TO TORONTO {page 6}

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Council rejects many of Ford's service cuts in budget vote

Deputy Mayor Doug Holyday calls it a 'narrow loss, to say the least' Meanwhile, police tried to prevent an influx of angry demonstrators into city council chambers

Mayor Rob Ford's drive for significant budget cuts was solidly rebuffed Tuesday by a city council that put back about $19 million to fund previously threatened pools, arenas, transit service and child-care centres.

The result was hailed by Ford opponents as a victory for the people, who came out in droves to say they wanted municipal services retained.

Ford, after huddling with advisers after the vote, claimed victory because the property tax hike remained at 2.5 per cent and the city retained a sizeable surplus to put toward the purchase of streetcars for the TTC.

The budget raises municipal taxes by $60 on the average home (assessed at $447,090), to $2,459.89. That figure excludes education taxes, which will be set before final tax bills go out in the spring.

The mayor stressed that the $9.4 billion spending plan still represents a reduction from the 2011 budget of about $30 million, albeit not the $50-million spending cut he wanted.

"We are spending less money this year than we did last year," Ford told reporters. "We are starting to change the culture here at city hall. We are turning the Queen Mary.

"I think it's a huge victory."

Left-wingers opposed to Ford's budget-slashing agenda were pleased with the outcome, which saw many proposed cuts defeated by a vote of 23-21.

"Torontonians won this," said Coun. Joe Mihevc. "(Ford) lost every single vote today that was put on the table, save one around contracting out janitors.

"So there's no way you can say that he saved the day, that he won the day. He frankly lost the day quite miserably. They were working it all weekend, they were working it weeks beforehand and they weren't able to pull it off at the end.

"The majority of councillors at the end listened to their constituents, their bosses, who were saying it's intolerable to hurt the quality of life of Torontonians."

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Restoring services

A motion by Coun. Mike Colle was passed to take $15 million of the 2011 year-end surplus and plunk it into restoring services. The money will:

- Increase youth programming in priority centres
- Keep arenas open weekdays
- Save pools and homeless shelters threatened with closure
- Reverse planned cuts to transit service
- Continue mechanical leaf pickup in parts of Etobicoke and Scarborough

LUCAS OLENIUK/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

▶ Protesters squared off with police in front of Toronto City Hall Tuesday evening after a demonstration against city budget cuts turned violent.

Budget protest turns into chaos

It started as a rallying cry for child care, homeless shelters and community pools. And then came the pushing.

After speeches by community activists at a Stop the Cuts protest Tuesday, on the eve of the first day of budget talks, hundreds who came to protest Mayor Rob Ford's austerity measures tried to enter city hall. As they approached, dozens of yellow-clad police rode up on bikes and blocked the way.

What happened next can be described as a brief but violent altercation between police and protesters, with many claiming to have been pushed, punched and pepper-sprayed as police tried to prevent an influx of angry demonstrators into the city council chambers.

Sgt. Dan Sova of 52 Division couldn't confirm accusations about officers pepper-spraying or punching protesters, adding he was still waiting for officers to report back.

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‘Officer Bubbles’ tune goes viral

Will Double Bubble Trouble live up to its name? Will there be fallout from the punk-rock song about Toronto Const. Adam Josephs — otherwise known worldwide as “Officer Bubbles,” following a G20 incident with a protestor that was recorded and went viral on YouTube?

“I hope so,” said Warren Kinsella, 51, lead singer and songwriter for a band called S— From Hell, when he’s not working as a lawyer. “That’s the advantage in having two lawyers in the band. We’d be delighted to set off a little controversy.”

Kinsella wrote the song shortly after the posting of the YouTube video, in which the constable warns a young woman blowing bubbles on the streets of Toronto during the 2010 summit that if she doesn’t stop he’ll arrest her. But the band only recently got around to recording it.

And while the lyrics have a mocking tone — “This is a tale of a guy who’s surly, got his ass kicked by a girlie!” — and an inane chorus, there was some serious thought behind why it was written.

The “Officer Bubbles” video includes a brief appearance by lawyer David Shiller, who’s also a drummer in the band. Shiller made the comment, captured in the video: “For a billion dollars I could have got someone with a better attitude” (a reference to the unprecedented cost of the G8 and G20 summits).

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STEVE RUSSELL/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

▶ Toronto Const. Adam Josephs

Ex-pastor Song on trial

- Former leader of scandal-plagued church faces sex assault charges
- Gang rape allegations at Jesus First Church made international headlines

The former pastor of a scandal-plagued Toronto church told a parishioner that evil spirits would turn her into a hunchback-like creature, before he sexually assaulted her, an Orangeville court heard on Tuesday.

Jae-Kap Song, an Orangeville grocer and once pastor of the now closed Jesus First Church, near Steeles and Islington avenues, also told the alleged victim her husband was cheating on her and pressured her to have “revenge” sex with him, the woman testified.

The 30-year-old alleged sexual assault victim, whose identity is protected by a court-ordered publication ban, said Song removed her bra, pants and underwear without her consent and assaulted her with his hand.

The alleged incident took place Valentine’s Day 2010. Song was charged several months later, after nine members of his congregation were slapped with 485 charges — including gang rape — after Song accused them of sex crimes.

The story brought a swath of reporters from South Korea to the GTA to investigate a litany of lurid allegations. Most of the church members were South Koreans in Canada on student visas.

In October, the Crown dropped all charges against the nine members — including gang sexual assault, administering drugs for sex, threatening death, forcible confinement and assault — after a five-week pretrial, saying there was “no reasonable prospect of conviction.”

Song sat quietly in court on Tuesday — his wife behind him — as his accuser wept during parts of her testimony.

RICK MADONIK/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

▶ Jae-Kap Song, Orangeville pastor and grocer charged with sex assault.

Months before the incident, the woman said, Song told her an evil spirit from her husband’s family was attacking her, and without treatment she would get bigger, eventually growing into a “hunchback.” On Song’s advice, she said she took injections of an unidentified medicine that came from South Korea.

The defence will open its case when the trial resumes on Wednesday.

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Testimony

- In the early hours of Feb. 14, 2010, a group of church members was gathered in a room adjacent to the apartment where the alleged victim lived with her husband, the woman said.
- Song began to tell the members, one by one, to go to bed. She said she was the last one left.
- Without warning or consent, she said Song kissed her and began to speak of how he pitied her because of the “evil spirit” that was attacking her.
- She said he warned her the colour of her skin would soon change and then requested she remove her clothing so he could assess whether the process had already begun.
- She said she refused at first, then consented to be led to an upstairs bedroom and to take off her shirt so that Song could examine her.
- Afterward, she said she was too ashamed to tell anyone what had happened. The woman said she knew her husband admired Song and believed he was a true spiritual leader.

1 news

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TONY BOCK/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

▶ Chris Spence

Registration open for specialty schools

New boutique-style schools aim to engage struggling students To open this fall

Song. Sports. Boys. Girls. The Toronto District School Board is opening nine new elementary schools, each with a focus it hopes will spark interest among some of its more lukewarm learners, said director of education Chris Spence.

With no fees and no try-outs, the new schools are a bid to slow the loss of some 4,000 students a year from declining enrolment.

"We have some 550 schools; they don't all have to be the same," Spence said Tuesday at the launch of online registration for the schools.

"Our biggest challenge is not underachievement; it's disengagement. And we hope these schools will provide some students with a reason to want to come to school," Spence said at Humberwood Downs Junior Middle Academy, which already has a number of single-gender classes popular with both students and teachers.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Son of slain woman grateful for support

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▶ Enbo Cui

Enbo Cui last saw his mother in 2007, when she left China for Toronto to pursue the family's immigrant dream.

Nearly five years later, Cui, 22, finally arrived on Canadian soil to see Guang Xia Lu. But sadly, it was for the 45-year-old woman's funeral. Ever since her arrival from Shandong province, Lu had been toiling in Chinatown restaurants, saving money for Cui's education in Australia. Her dream was to reunite with her son and see him succeed.

That dream was cut short Dec. 28, when Lu was stabbed, allegedly by a co-worker at Chinese Traditional Bun restaurant near Dundas Street West and Spadina Avenue. She died of her injuries.

"My mother worked very hard. She was very tough," Cui said Tuesday, a day after Lu's private funeral. "I called her often and told her I was going to see her soon. Of course, we couldn't afford it. But I knew that would make her happy."

Cui, an only son, is studying accounting as a foreign student in Sydney and works part-time. Although he has lost his mother's help to pay tuition, Cui vows he will continue studying and work hard to fulfill her wish.

Cui said he was grateful for support from Greater Toronto's Chinese community, which raised $8,800 to help the family through financial hardship.

"Despite the sorrow and cold winter, we hope Enbo can feel the warmth from Torontonians, find the courage and come out strong," said Maria Sun, president of the Qilu Association, which led the fundraising effort.

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Toronto Hydro mulls selling shares

Toronto Hydro is feuding with its regulator and jettisoning jobs, but Toronto residents might get a chance to buy its shares to light up their investment portfolios. The city's executive committee will once again consider selling off 10 per cent of the utility's shares, all of which are currently owned by the city government. The proposal before the committee says that as many of the shares as possible should be sold to Toronto residents.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Sales tax

- Opponents fear that private investors will push for higher electricity prices to increase the value of their investments. The Ontario government allows municipalities to sell up to 10 per cent of their hydro utilities without penalty. If they sell more, however, the province imposes a 33 per cent tax on the proceeds of the sale.

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Great One's daughter Toronto-bound

Paulina Gretzky said to be planning recording session Her last album, Collecting Dust, was released in '06 by L.A.-based studio

Paulina Gretzky is flying to Toronto in February, likely to record songs with Universal Music.

"Counting down the days til im working in Toronto and just a quick flight from my bestie in NY #eastcoastlivin," she tweeted Monday.

At the request of the Toronto Star, Lisa Crowell, the designer of the Gretzky family Christmas card, got in touch with the Great One's clan.

"They have asked that you contact Universal Music for any information," wrote Crowell in an email.

According to Greg McIsaac, director of communications for TSN, Paulina isn't coming until February.

Universal Music Canada couldn't be reached for comment.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Background

- Paulina Gretzky has worked in film as well as music. In 2009, she played the role of "gorgeous blond senior" in Fame, a remake the 80's musical.
- Recently, she finished shooting the role of "the Deputy" in Guns, Girls and Gambling, a movie starring Gary Oldman and Christian Slater about Elvis impersonators and frat boys searching for an artifact stolen during a poker game a casino, as described by the Hollywood Reporter.
- Gretzky's last high-profile modeling shoot was done for Flare, a Canadian fashion magazine, in 2005.
- Last November, Gretzky took a brief hiatus from Twitter after father decreed her photos too sexy for public consumption.

ROBYN BECK/GETTY IMAGES

▶ Hockey legend Wayne Gretzky arrives with his daughter, Paulina, for the premiere of The Hangover at Grauman's Chinese Theatre in Los Angeles on June 2009. Paulina is said to be coming to Toronto in February to record some new songs.

Downtown casino not the solution: Hudak

TANYA TALAGA/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

▶ Tim Hudak

Ontario's cash-strapped Liberals should think twice before rolling the dice on a casino in the heart of Toronto to help slay their massive $16-billion deficit, Opposition Leader Tim Hudak warned Tuesday.

Building a gambling palace in the city's downtown is just another way for the government to put its hands in people's pockets, rather than finding ways to operate more efficiently, he said.

"We're heading in the wrong direction here," the Tory leader said.

"Our focus should be on reducing costs, reducing the cost and size of government, not vacuuming more money out of the wallets of Ontario families."

The once-troubled and "bloated" Ontario Lottery and Gaming Corp. must show that it has put its own house in order before going ahead with anything new, Hudak added.

"To date, no, I'm not convinced they've fixed their own internal problems," he said. "Not by a longshot."

Putting a casino in Toronto is a longstanding proposal that has been mulled over by successive Ontario governments, well before the Liberals took power in 2003.

But Finance Minister Dwight Duncan added fuel to the fire Monday by suggesting he's receptive to the idea because it could help bring in a new source of revenue, adding to the $1.9 billion the OLG contributed to the treasury in 2010.

However, a new Toronto casino could also draw gamblers away from other OLG casinos in places like Niagara Falls, said Hudak, whose Niagara West-Glanbrook riding borders that city.

"What is going to be the impact on the bottom line in terms of jobs and overall revenue?" he said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Revenues

- Slot machine revenues can add up to millions of dollars each year. Toronto's 2010 share from the Woodbine Racetrack amounted to almost $16 million.
- But revenues from casinos have dropped in recent years. In 2010, the OLG reported revenues from its resort casinos fell to $1.3 billion from $1.4 billion in 2009.

Canadian students shooting for the stars

Four Canadian teams are still in the running in a Google-run contest that's encouraging students to dream up experiments to be performed in space.

Students in two age groups, 14 to 16 and 17 to 18, are competing for a number of prizes, including a chance to undergo real astronaut training in Star City, Russia.

The two winning experiments will also be conducted aboard the International Space Station and streamed live on YouTube.

A project designed by Alexandra Kasper and Mackenzie Richardson of Hamilton is among 60 selected from more than 2,000 entries.

In February, six regional winners will be awarded a trip to Washington, D.C. in March, where they'll get to experience a Zero-G flight simulating a weightless environment.

Cirque du Soleil founder Guy Laliberte and Canadian astronaut Chris Hadfield are among the judges of the contest. THE CANADIAN PRESS

PAUL CHIASSON/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ Cirque du Soleil founder Guy Laliberte.

Police catch driver going wrong way

Provincial police say they're investigating after a woman was pulled over driving the wrong way on Highway 407 in Mississauga.

Officers located the vehicle and made numerous attempts to pull it over before resorting to making contact with the car to get it to stop in Vaughan.

There were no injuries, but police say the driver was arrested and taken to hospital as a precaution.

Both the cruiser and the car were damaged.

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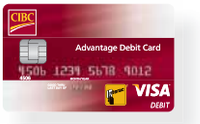

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Showtime on Canada's campuses

Homemade videos of students promoting schools becoming wildly popular ◐ Many videos get funding

YOUTUBE SCREEN GRAB

▶ Northern Secondary students filmed a lip dub in December for Grade 8 students visiting the Toronto high school.

Suddenly there's a little song and dance on campus, as students, teachers, university presidents and even cancer researchers groove and lip-synch on camera for all the YouTube world to see.

These wildly popular "lip dubs" are the latest social media twist on school life. With a focus on clubs, teams and faculties, they're a new Ivory Tower icon that's part yearbook, part pep rally, part feel-good commercial, and they're being used to do everything from boost morale and recruit students to raise money for research.

"My friend at Harvard saw ours and now his wife wants to choreograph one for them," said renowned McGill University biochemist Nahum Sonenberg, one of a handful of cancer scientists who raised colleagues' eyebrows last fall by wiggling through a lip dub that has raised almost $20,000 for the university's Rosalind and Morris Goodman Cancer Centre. Medical supplier Medicom pledged 5 cents per hit, with more than 375,000 viewers so far.

"The idea was so unusual, many scientists didn't like it; but social media is so powerful, why not use it to spread the message that research needs money?" asked Sonenberg. A fund-raising gala lasts one night, he noted, "but a lip dub on YouTube keeps on raising money."

But is it all getting too competitive? Students at the University of Toronto spent three days last fall filming with funding from the administration, and even released a trailer — with president David Naylor break-dancing in white sunglasses — only to have student organizers decide their final product was not quite up to scratch. They plan to start over and re-shoot on a bigger scale with outside funding and celebrity cameos.

"We thought we can do better, it wasn't quite what we expected," said organizer Sandra Zhou, a second-year psychology major.

But McGill cancer scientist Dr. Phil Gold thinks a lip dub can get too slick: "I think if we had rehearsed ours, it would have lost the spontaneity and wouldn't have been nearly as good. This showed people doctors aren't as dull as they think."

All this lip dub buzz has even started to filter down to high schools, where principals say the videos are teaching students technical skills, co-operation and time management. Others say lip dubs do so much for school spirit, school boards should hold an annual lip dub competition.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Global trend

- Created at a German university four years ago, the concept of a rolling lip-synch video that ends in a group dance has been embraced by Canadian universities. The University of Quebec At Montreal's version of Black Eyed Peas' I Gotta Feeling has drawn a staggering 9 million views.
- York University made a lip dub last fall that starts with top brass in a mock emergency meeting, while Ryerson University students are poised to edit the lip dub they filmed last fall.

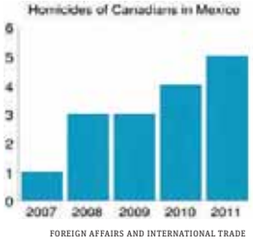
Canadian killed in Mexico; deaths a growing trend

The murder of a Canadian man gunned down in one of Mexico's most dangerous cities appears to be the work of drug cartels, authorities said.

The body of Salid Abdulacis Sabas was found before dawn Monday at an intersection in Culiacan, the capital of Sinaloa state.

He had been hit nine times with .45-calibre bullets, a technician at the medical examiner's office told the Mexican news agency EFE.

Police said he had Canadian identity papers, but did not reveal his age or hometown. A police photograph shows a body wearing jeans and sneakers partially covered in the middle of a city intersection.



FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND INTERNATIONAL TRADE

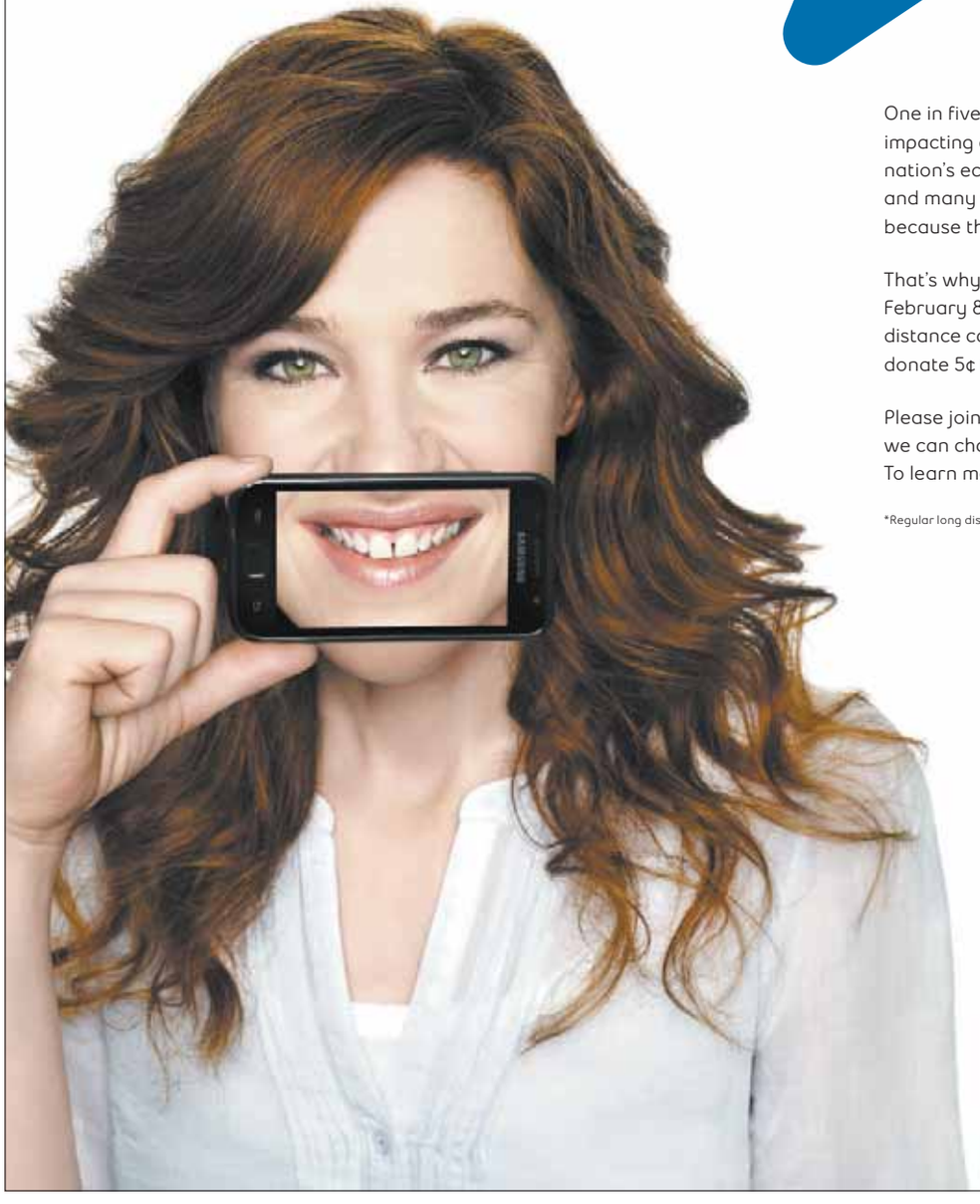
Sinaloa, the birthplace of the first generation of Mexican drug lords, is the home of the cartel led by the fugitive Joaquin (El Chapo) Guzman, listed by Forbes magazine as one of the world's wealthiest people.

While police have no motive for the killing, the technician told EFE that authorities suspect a connection to the drug war.

In the first seven months of 2011, 61 police in Sinaloa had been shot and killed in the drug wars. Another 1,000 people were killed in that time in a state where EFE reported violence and death has become worse despite a new governor's election in January on a law and order promise.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

On February 8, let's talk.



One in five Canadians suffers from mental illness, impacting countless lives and taking a heavy toll on our nation's economy. But mental illness carries a stigma, and many who suffer won't get the help they need because they're too afraid to talk about it.

That's why I'm proud to support Bell Let's Talk Day on February 8. For every text message sent and every long distance call made by Bell customers that day,* Bell will donate 5¢ to Canadian mental health programs.

Please join me in the national conversation. Together, we can change attitudes and make a real difference. To learn more, visit bell.ca/letstalk.

*Regular long distance and text message charges apply.

Clara Hughes
Olympic champion

Bell Let's Talk

FUN TIME

Counting the hours for 'Clock' debut

Christian Marclay's The Clock, a world-renowned video installation that runs for 24 hours and acts as a fully-functioning timepiece, is coming to Toronto.

The Power Plant Contemporary Art Gallery said Tuesday that it will exhibit the work starting on Sept. 21, with a special 48-hour screening to allow visitors to view the piece at any time of the day or night, or in its entirety.

The Clock weaves together snippets from hundreds of films from cinema history. Marclay, a Swiss-American artist, pulled together excerpts of wristwatches, clock towers and other timepieces and arranged them to provide viewers with time references for every minute of the day.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Teen taggers charged in graffiti case

Two 17-year-olds face charges for tagging graffiti at a Newmarket plaza. York Regional Police say officers on patrol early on Jan. 7 noticed the two males acting suspiciously, and, after investigating, tried to arrest them. One of the teens fled and one of the officers was injured. The teen was later found at his home. Both are charged with mischief, while one of them is also charged with assaulting a peace officer and the other with escaping lawful custody.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Disaster brews over coffee promo

Giveaway backfires after chain runs out of java, then goes silent

Timothy's Coffees of the World learned a tough social-media lesson after a Facebook promotion spiralled out of control.

For simply "liking" Timothy's on Facebook, the company would send fans four free 24-pack boxes of single-serve coffee, a Dec. 16 post promised.

But the Toronto-based chain sparked a backlash after it underestimated how many people would sign up for the freebie. It took only three days for the stock to be depleted, but then the company accidentally sent an email to everyone saying the coffee was on its way. When it became clear it couldn't deliver on the promise, Timothy's fell into silence until Jan. 4, when the company said the promotion had been "first come, first served."

"With social media, you need to respond in hours, not days and weeks. A month is glacial."

PAUL CUBBON, MARKETING FACULTY, UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

And it wasn't until a full month after the fiasco began that Marie-Claude Dessureault, Timothy's spokeswoman, posted an apology video — the first time Timothy's apologized for its mistake.

By this time, hordes of Facebook fans were commenting on the page, some of them furious that they had handed out their personal information and received nothing in return.

The lesson is that when it comes to social media, companies need to act quickly, said Paul Cubbon, marketing professor at the University of British Columbia. They also need to plan how to engage the customer after the promotion.

Meanwhile, Dessureault said all private information will be deleted and that those who signed up for the promotion will get a coupon for a free 12-pack box. The coupon will "most likely" come by regular mail, she said.

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▶ Screen shot of Timothy's Facebook page.

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January

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Don't click on Wikipedia

Popular website was set to go black today to protest piracy act

Some Canadians have pledged to join Wikipedia and other big websites in going black Wednesday.

The blackout is a protest against proposed anti-piracy legislation in the U.S. that could have far-reaching effects for Internet users.

The legislation could allow website addresses to be blocked when complaints are filed about copyright infringement.

Search engines could be compelled to remove links to sites accused of copyright violations.

Web payment processors and advertisers could be forced to stop doing business with alleged offenders.

"We believe in a free and open Internet."
SUE GARDNER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE WIKIMEDIA FOUNDATION

Tucows, a Toronto-based company that manages over 11 million domain names and provides other Internet services, planned to temporarily take down its downloading site, which hosts more than 40,000 programs.

Social media service Identi.ca was also among Canadian sites joining the likes of Boing Boing, Reddit and Wordpress in the protest.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

A COMPUTER IS HIS BIBLE. MEET ...

FILE-SHARING'S HIGH PRIEST

JOHAN KELLMAN LARSSON
@METRO.LU
METRO WORLD NEWS IN STOCKHOLM

The pirates of file-sharing are on a mission.

Last week, the Swedish Missionary Church of Kopimism won official recognition as a religion — and the creed of copying and spreading information is expanding around the world.

Followers have sprung up in Russia, Romania, France, the United States and Denmark. A congregation in New Zealand is also seeking legal recognition.

The Kopimists worked all of last year to be recognized as a religion in Sweden. Last week, their status as a church was recognized.

PATRIK LUNDIN/FOR METRO

▶ Isak Gerson, founder and spiritual leader of the Church of Kopimism, spoke with Metro about his religion.

Their 'creed'

Here are the Kopimists' Pillars of Faith:

- Copying information is ethically correct.
- Disseminating information is ethically correct.
- Remixing is a holier form of copying than the perfect, digital copying.
- Intranets are holy.

"The response has been great, even outside Europe. I have been contacted by new Kopimists in India as well as Japan," philosophy student Isak Gerson, 19 — founder, head of mission and supreme spiritual leader of the church — told Metro.

There are now 3,000 followers in more than 10 countries, it's claimed.

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‘Go on board!’ captain of doomed ship told

Death toll from shipwreck rose sharply on Tuesday, up to 11

GREGORIO BORGIA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Italian naval divers approach the cruise ship Costa Concordia Tuesday after it ran aground on the tiny Tuscan island of Giglio, Italy, on Friday evening.

“You go on board! Is that clear? Do you hear me?” the coast guard officer shouted as the captain of the grounded Costa Concordia sat safe in a life raft and frantic passengers struggled to escape after the ship rammed into a reef off the Tuscan coast.

“It is an order. Don’t make any more excuses. You have declared ‘Abandon ship.’ Now I am in charge.”

The dramatic recording made public Tuesday shows Capt. Francesco Schettino resisted orders to return to his ship to direct the evacuation, saying it was too dark and the ship was tipping perilously.

The Costa Concordia had more than 4,200 passengers and crew on board when it slammed into the reef Friday off the tiny island of Giglio after Schettino made an unauthorized manoeuvre from the ship’s programmed course — apparently to show off the luxury liner to the island’s residents.

Schettino has insisted that he stayed aboard until the ship was evacuated. However, the recording of his conversation with Italian Coast Guard Capt. Gregorio De Falco makes clear he fled before all passengers were off — and then defied De Falco’s repeated orders to go back.

The exchange also indicates that Schettino did not know anyone had died, with De Falco telling him at one point: “There are already bodies now, Schettino.”

“How many bodies?” Schettino asks in a nervous tone.

“You are the one who has to tell me how many there are!” De Falco barks in response.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tape recording

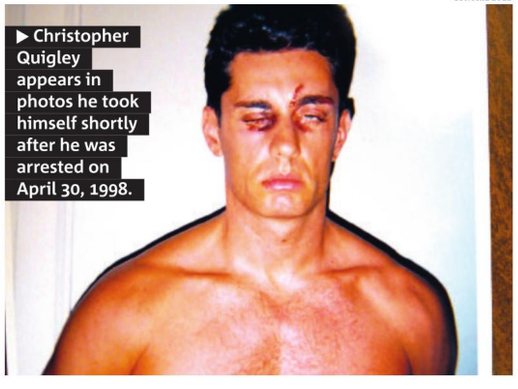
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ **Conversation.** At one point, in a recording of a conversation between Italian Coast Guard Capt. Gregorio De Falco and Francesco Schettino, pictured, De Falco vowed: “I’m going to make sure you get in trouble.... I am going to make you pay for this. Go on board, (expletive)!”

Scan the code or go to metronews.ca to hear the full recording.

Witness at police-corruption trial says he was ‘pulverized’

CONTRIBUTED



▶ Christopher Quigley appears in photos he took himself shortly after he was arrested on April 30, 1998.

A key Crown witness was beaten so savagely by some of the police officers accused in a massive corruption case that he feared for his life, court heard Tuesday.

“I was semi-conscious, I was covered in blood from head to toe,” said Christopher Quigley, a jewelry broker and one-time drug dealer.

“I was terrified, I really thought I was going to die. I thought it was possible they were going to kill me in this room.”

Quigley, on the stand for a second day of the long-delayed trial of five former Toronto drug squad officers, said he was punched, kicked and choked as the officers asked where he kept his drugs and money until he lost consciousness.

“I was being pulverized,” he said.

Quigley alleges the attack was unprovoked and began when the unit’s head, John Schertzer, hit him across the face after he was taken in for questioning over stolen sunglasses.

He testified that he was later subjected to three sets of beatings by another one of the accused, Ned Maodus, along with another officer who is not part of the trial.

The men have all pleaded not guilty and none of the allegations have been proven in court.

The defence will get their chance to cross-examine Quigley on Wednesday.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Dating back

▶ **Decade.** The case against Schertzer, Maodus, Steven Correia, Joseph Miched and Raymond Pollard goes back more than a decade.

▶ **Progress.** Charges were first laid in 2004, but delays have slowed the case’s progress through the courts.

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Pedestrians and headphones are a deadly combination

Study finds injuries, deaths increase when people walk and wear headphones

A new U.S. study looking at injuries and deaths of pedestrians who were wearing headphones finds that trains were involved in more than half of the cases identified.

The researchers studied databases for reports from 2004 to 2011 of accidents involving people wearing headphones.

Their study, published in the journal Injury Prevention on Tuesday, found 116 reports of accidents with pedestrians wearing headphones, which 81 were fatal.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ A U.S. study suggests that the use of headphones with handheld devices may pose a safety risk to pedestrians in environments with moving vehicles.

Russia hints at U.S. probe involvement

Russia will look into the possibility that a U.S. radar station could have inadvertently interfered with the failed Mars moon probe that plummeted to Earth, Russian media reported Tuesday, but experts argued that any such claims were far-fetched.

NASA spokesman Bob Jacobs said the space agency was not using the military radar equipment in question at the time of the Russian equipment failure, but instead was using radar in the Mojave desert and in Puerto Rico.

Russia's state news agency RIA Novosti quoted Yury Koptev, former head of the Russian space agency Roscosmos, as saying investigators will conduct tests to check if U.S. radar emissions could have impacted the Phobos-Ground space probe, which was stuck in Earth's orbit for two months before crashing down near Chile and Brazil.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Soviet fail

- **The $170 million Phobos-Ground probe** was one of the heaviest and most toxic pieces of space junk ever to crash to Earth.
- **The probe was designed** to travel to one of Mars' twin moons, Phobos, land on it, collect soil samples and fly them back to Earth in 2014.
- **It was Russia's most expensive** and the most ambitious space mission since Soviet times.

Scientists confirm rare meteorite is from Mars

DARRYL PITT/MACOVICH COLLECTION/AP

▶ A meteorite recovered near Foumzgit, Morocco.

Scientists are confirming a rare invasion from Mars: meteorite chunks from the planet that fell in Morocco last July.

This is only the fifth time scientists have confirmed chemically Martian meteorites that people witnessed as they fell. The fireball was spotted in the sky six months ago, but the rocks were not discovered on the ground in North Africa until the end of December.

This is an important and unique opportunity for scientists trying to learn about Mars' potential for life. So far, no NASA or Russian spacecraft has returned bits of Mars, so the only Martian samples scientists can examine are those that come here in meteorite showers.

Scientists and collectors of meteorites are ecstatic, and already the rocks are fetching big money because they are among the rarest things on Earth, rarer even than gold.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Friends raise money for teen with rare tumour

Family friends say cash will give the Calgary teen a fighting chance Awaiting transfer to SickKids

DANI FINCH
FOR METRO CALGARY

CONTRIBUTED

▶ Lexi Whyte has a rare bone tumour in her skull. While she waits for a transfer to SickKids, her friends are helping her family by raising money.

Friends said their love for a critically ill teenager is the reason they've come together to raise money to help Lexi Whyte's family pay her medical bills.

"She's a beautiful 15-year-old teen that's had this horrible thing happen to her," said family friend, Barb Cox.

Lexi has a rare bone tumour in her skull, causing nerve dystrophy in her head. According to an email from Lexi's mom, Jessica Taylor, the family is awaiting a transfer to Toronto SickKids Hospital to meet with specialists who may be able to help the teen.

However, the transfer costs money, and the family is struggling financially.

Cox said Taylor hasn't been able to work in months, and the family does not have any health insurance.

"(Lexi's parents) are very proud and not ones to ask for help," said Cox.

Cox and other family friends have started to fundraise for the family. According to Cox, their efforts have already brought in nearly $20,000 since Jan. 11.

"I never in my wildest dreams thought it could be that amazing for her," said Cox.

Give a girl a chance

- **Visit the Love 4 Lexi** Facebook page at facebook.com/givelove2lexi
- **Donations can be made** at any TD Canada Trust, with all cheques payable to "Barbara Cox in Trust."
- **A fundraiser for Lexi** will be held in Calgary on Jan. 27 at 7 p.m.

TECHNOLOGY

2012 the it year for IT job market

It's a good year to be a computer professional.

More companies plan to hire in 2012, particularly in the growing areas of data security and privacy, according to an annual survey by Randstad Technologies and IBM Canada.

Fewer companies plan to use global outsourcing, the practice of sending computer work out to professionals in other countries, the study called 2012 Canadian IT Staffing Outlook reveals.

While job prospects for IT professionals remain below their pre-recession peak in 2007, they are improving, said Mike Winterfield, president of Randstad Technologies, in Toronto, part of the country's largest human resources services firm.

"Two years ago, we hit probably our lowest level of demand."

"We had more supply of talent than there was demand," he said.

"There was fairly significant growth last year in 2011 where demand started to outstrip supply."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Risky snow business

Six people who hit the frigid waters of Lake Scugog in two separate incidents last weekend have sparked a stern warning from police about dangerous conditions this winter.

Firefighters and police, including the force's helicopter, helped rescue a snowmobiler who fell through thin ice Friday night.

Saturday evening, a group of five people needed help after hitting open water on the return trip to shore aboard an all-terrain vehicle towing a trailer.

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Rail surfing becomes a whole new ball game

Indonesia's roof riders can now expect blow to head from concrete ball

Indonesia has gone to imaginative extremes to try to stop commuters from illegally riding the roofs of trains.

Now the authorities have an intimidating and possibly even deadly new tactic: Suspending rows of grapefruit-sized concrete balls to rake over the top of trains as they pull out of stations, or when they go through rail crossings.

Authorities hope the balls — which could deliver serious blows to the head — will be enough to deter defiant roof riders.

"We've tried just about everything, even putting rolls of barbed wire on the roof, but nothing seems to work," said Mateta Rizahulhaq, a spokesman for the state-owned railway company PT Kereta Api. "Maybe this will do it."

Trains that criss-cross Indonesia on poorly maintained tracks left behind by Dutch colonizers six decades ago usually are packed with passengers, especially during the rush hour.

Hundreds seeking to escape the overcrowded carriages clamber to the top. Some ride high to avoid paying for a ticket. Others do so because — despite the dangers, with dozens killed or injured every year — "rail surfing" is fun.

The first dozen or so balls were installed Tuesday hundreds of metres from the entrance of a train station just outside the capital, Jakarta. Painted silver, the balls hung by chains from what looked like the frame of a giant soccer goal.

But there was a glitch: the chains were too short, leaving a gap of about 40 centimetres between the balls and the roofs of the passing train carriages. Rizahulhaq said adjustments would be made.

If successful, the project will be expanded, with balls also set up near railway crossings. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Measures taken

- Several years ago, paint guns were set up to spray those riding on the top of carriages so authorities could identify and round up the guilty travellers. But roof riders destroyed the equipment soon after.
- The exhortations of clerics didn't work. Neither did the dogs.
- At one point, police decided to do the expected: Arrest the culprits. But their officers were pelted with rocks and they gave up.

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DITA ALANGKARA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ People ride on top of a crowded commuter train in Jakarta, Indonesia, Tuesday.

'We always win': Rider

The commuters, known as Atappers or Roofers, are hardcore in their determination to stay on top.

"I was really scared when I first heard about these balls," said Mulyanto, a 27-year-old shopkeeper, who rides between his hometown of Bogor and Jakarta almost every day for work. "It sounds like it could be really dangerous."

"But I don't think it'll last long," he said. "They've tried everything to keep us from riding . . . in the end we always win."

"We like it up there, it's windy, really nice."

Many of the roof riders — and regular passengers — say the main problem lies with Indonesia's dilapidated railway system. There are not enough trains to meet demand, they say. And there are constant delays in service.

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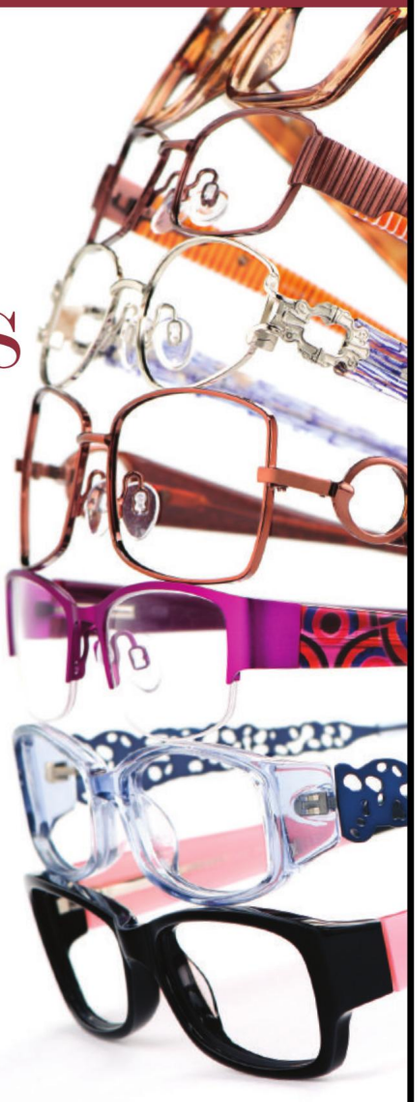

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Defending honour in murder trial

Half-brother blames improper investigation, not Mohammad Shafia, in alleged honour killing

Honour is very important to a man accused of killing half of his family, allegedly in a so-called honour killing, but Mohammad Shafia is no murderer, his half-brother said Tuesday.

Dr. Mohammad Anwar Yaqubi, in one of several outbursts in which he vehemently asserted his sibling is innocent, suggested it's the police and prosecutors who should be in prison instead of Shafia and his co-accused wife and son. Wiretaps that the Crown says show Shafia's lingering anger over his daughters' dating habits, in which he calls them "whores," actually exonerate Shafia because he never explicitly says he committed murder, Yaqubi said.

"If you listen to them properly and you analyze them properly you'll find out that dear (Shafia) shouldn't be here," Yaqubi said in response to a question about how many hours he spent listening to the recordings.

"I think these people (the three accused) should be released and those people ... who were in charge of these interrogations or investigation, I think they didn't do their job properly. They should be put in this spot."

Shafia, his wife, Tooba Yahya, 42, and their son, Hamed, 21, are on trial in Kingston, charged with four counts each of first-degree murder. They've pleaded not guilty in the deaths of Shafia and Yahya's daughters Zainab, 19, Sahar, 17, and Geeti, 13, as well as Rona Amir Mohammad, 52, Shafia's first wife in a polygamous marriage.

The Crown alleges the four, all of whom they say expressed desires to leave or tried to leave the family home in various ways, were killed to protect family honour.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ This picture provided by the Frontenac County Court shows Rona Amir Mohammad, left, and Sahar Shafia, found dead in June 2011.

Baby waited for no one, save adopted parents

She's just four days old and she's rocked his world.

For nearly two years, Jeff Watson, Conservative MP for Essex, worked behind Commons committee doors to advocate for a national adoption strategy for Canada.

But for much longer than that, the father of five children, ages 4 to 14, held onto a dream that he and his wife Sarah would also one day adopt a child.

An adoptee himself, Watson, 40, said: "I still have a name in my heart for the next child."

She would be called "Beatrice."

A few weeks ago Watson didn't know if or when she would ever come into their lives. He and Sarah had almost given up before they were approached on behalf of an Inuit family in the north and a young pregnant woman in search of parents for her unborn child. In a few weeks, things unfolded quickly.

Last Wednesday, they travelled to Iqaluit to meet the mother-to-be and extended family. The proposed adoption under Inuit customary law — approved by an elder and formally recognized by the Nunavut government — was agreed to. Suddenly, on Friday, Jan. 13, the woman went into labour a week early. Scrambling to find a cab, the Watsons missed the birth by six minutes.

On Monday night, Jeff and Sarah Watson brought baby Beatrice Grace Ulaajuk Watson home to Windsor from Iqaluit.

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ANDREW WALLACE/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

▶ Economic Development and Innovation Minister Brad Duguid

Praise for slashing red tape

Ontario earns improved grade from private business Rating proof the administration is helping businesses small and large, says minister

In a bid to lure business to Ontario by cutting red tape, Premier Dalton McGuinty's government has slashed almost 80,000 rules and regulations since 2008.

That has earned the province an improved B-grade from the Canadian Federation of Independent Business (CFIB) — up from a C- last year — which has traditionally criticized the Liberals for not doing enough.

"Ontario has taken significant steps in recent years to make the province a more attractive place to do business. Since 2008, we have eliminated … 80,000 regulatory requirements — a 17 per cent reduction," said Economic Development and Innovation Minister Brad Duguid, defending the fact McGuinty has promised a 25 per cent cut.

Four years ago, there were about 466,000 such rules and now there are 386,251.

While Satinder Chera, CFIB's Ontario vice-president, hailed the province's "big improvement," he warned that vigilance is needed to prevent the red-tape bloat businesses fear.

"For making progress in most of these areas, Ontario deserves a B- for their performance — a big improvement over the C- they got in 2011," Chera said.

Ontario's B- grade ties the province with the federal government, Quebec, and Saskatchewan, but trails British Columbia's A and Newfoundland's B.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Indo-China talks

Dozens of Tibetans, including monks, held up a portrait of the Dalai Lama in a community in southwestern China in an act of defiance days after other Tibetans set themselves on fire to protest Chinese rule.

Seda county police said Tuesday that officers dealt with the gathering, but declined to say whether any of the Tibetans were arrested in the incident Monday.

China is sensitive to protests by Tibetans because they threaten its control over its western region and may inspire protests in other parts of China by people with possible grievances against the government.

At least 16 Buddhist monks, nuns and other Tibetans are believed to have set themselves on fire in the past year — four this month — mostly in Tibetan areas of Sichuan province. Most have chanted for Tibetan freedom and the return of their spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama, who fled to India amid an abortive uprising against Chinese rule in 1959.

Fears of protests by Tibetans were why Premier Wen Jiabao kept a trip to Nepal at the weekend secret, according to the Nepalese prime minister.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MANAN VATSYAYANA/GETTY IMAGES

▶ A Tibetan activist holds a placard against the visit of a Chinese State Councillor in New Delhi on Tuesday.

▶ Indian policemen scuffle with Tibetan activists who try to escape from a police bus outside the Hyderabad House, the venue of the Indo-China talks in New Delhi on Tuesday. Indian and Chinese officials began fresh talks on sensitive border issues after discussions last year were cancelled over a speech by Tibetan spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama, in India.

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India, China takes steps on Himalayan border

Border dispute unresolved despite 15 rounds of talks and a bloody war in 1962 Committee established, but will not determine final boundary

India and China said Tuesday they would work toward peacefully resolving their disputed Himalayan border while improving management of the region by establishing a committee.

The sides agreed to look into conducting military and information exchanges along the mountainous border, which is unresolved despite 15 rounds of talks and a brief but bloody war in 1962.

A joint statement, released after two days of meetings in New Delhi, says that holding to the 1993 Line of Actual Control would be "significant for enhancing mutual trust and security" while the final boundary is determined.

China reviles the Tibetan Buddhist spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama, and accuses him of pushing for independence for Tibet, which it insists is Chinese territory.

The Tibetan issue has been a source of tension between China and India since 1959, when the Dalai Lama fled to India amid an abortive uprising against Chinese rule.

He and the Tibetan government-in-exile have since been based in the northern Indian town of Dharmsala.

Hundreds of Tibetans protested the talks in New Delhi, chanting slogans, burning an effigy of the Chinese official and demanding China end the "illegal occupation" of their homeland.

The planned secretarial-level joint committee, meanwhile, would meet once or twice a year to improve co-operation.

However, the committee would not be involved in drawing the final boundary, the statement said.

Officials from both sides declined to speak with reporters after the talks.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Drawing lines

- **The border dispute** centres on two regions now controlled by India — Arunachal Pradesh in the far east, and Aksai Chin in the region of Kashmir, also disputed with Pakistan.
- **This week's talks** involving India's National Security Adviser Shiv Shankar Menon and China's State Councilor Dai Bingguo, had been delayed from November.
- **Local newspapers blamed** the delay on tension after India refused to cancel an international Buddhist conference being attended by the Dalai Lama.

Indian army chief's age dispute goes to court

The Indian government and its army chief are asking the Supreme Court to answer a peculiar question: Just how old is the nation's top soldier?

Gen. Vijay Kumar Singh says he was born in May 1951 and will not reach the mandatory retirement age of 62 until next year. But India's Defence Ministry says its records show he was born a year earlier and must retire in four months. Singh's army records and school certificates show different dates. Like many Indians of his generation, Singh has no birth certificate.

This is the first time a general has taken the government to court.

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Online petition urges increased competition among cell providers

OpenMedia.ca initiative has garnered 40,000 signatures in only a week

A grassroots organization is planning the biggest online petition in Canadian history, hoping to encourage the one thing they think can keep cellphone charges in check: Competition among mobile phone providers.

When a new swath of ultra-high frequency spectrum goes up for auction later this year, it seems inevitable that Canada's three mobile-phone behemoths will gobble up most of it.

So B.C.-based Internet advocacy group OpenMedia.ca is organizing what it hopes will be the largest online petition in Canadian history, trusting widespread public support will persuade Industry Minister Christian Paradis to impose rules on the auction that would give independent mobile providers a better chance to acquire some of the new spectrum.

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▶ Argentinian football legend Diego Maradona gestures after receiving a watch at an event in Shanghai on Tuesday.

REUTERS

Still the first in football

Maradona, current manager of Al Wasl FC in Dubai, won the FIFA Player of the Century award. He garnered over half the votes, beating Brazil's Pelé.

Soccer. Star

Market moment

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RIM shares up on report of sale

Blog suggests BlackBerry maker also in talks to license its messaging software to other companies

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

▶ Research in Motion co-CEO Jim Balsillie, right, and president and co-CEO Mike Lazaridis.

Shares in Research In Motion rose sharply Tuesday after a website that closely follows RIM said that South Korean electronics giant Samsung is a leading contender to buy some or all of the BlackBerry maker.

The blog also says the Waterloo, Ont.-based RIM is currently in talks to license its software to other vendors.

The Boy Genius Report says RIM co-CEO Jim Balsillie is meeting with almost every company that might be interested in RIM, and that "Jim is going hard after Samsung."

It says one of RIM's biggest assets is its BlackBerry Messenger texting service, which would allow Samsung to differentiate itself from the Android operating system that it uses in its smartphones.

Shares in RIM, which has been the subject of sale rumours for months, rose 90 cents to $17.76 in afternoon trading on the Toronto Stock Exchange.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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THE WORST IS BEHIND US

JUST SAYIN' ...

PAUL SULLIVAN
METRO

We should get a medal.

On it should be: "I survived Blue Monday."

If you're reading this, it's confirmed: you survived what is held to be the most depressing day of the year.

There's even a formula for those who don't automatically buy the idea that the third Monday in January is the most depressing day of the year. Developed by some helpful guy in Wales, it factors in weather, post-holiday bills, the grim fact that holidays are over, enthusiasm for your new year's resolution is officially on the wane, and there's that nagging feeling that if you don't do something, it's only going to get worse.

I'd add that for most of the country, the next holiday doesn't come until April 6, and there's a long stretch of another-day-older-and-deeper-in-debt until we get there.

So at least you should get a freaking medal.

I spent the most depressing day of the year in a room full of rocket scientists (don't ask) and by the end of it, I came to the conclusion that I need more RAM. But at least I got to the end of it, and by the time I turned out the light and pulled the covers over my head, I was feeling quite smug: starting tomorrow, there's nowhere to go but up.

"Even the not-psychologist admits his calculations are meaningless. But that hasn't stopped media from picking up the story, thanks to the time-tested tradition of never letting the facts get in the way of a good story."

And the same guy who calculated the most depressing day of the year has also determined the happiest day of the year, which this year for some reason is Monday, June 18.

We're happy on June 18, allegedly, because it's warm enough to go outside and play; therefore, we're closer to nature in all its early-summertime glory. We can hang out with friends without being frostbitten and even if we're miserable creatures we can remember summers long ago when we weren't. Finally, we're almost on holiday, which is better than being fresh out of holidays.

It's all very scientific, except that it isn't. Some killjoy pointed out that the so-called expert who devised the formula is not, as often billed, a psychologist at the University of Cardiff. Even the not-psychologist admits his calculations are meaningless. But that hasn't stopped media from picking up the story, thanks to the time-tested tradition of never letting the facts get in the way of a good story.

Surely at this time of the year, we need all the encouragement we can get. And the news that we've hit rock bottom and it can only get better is welcome news indeed.

It would be even better if it came with a medal we could wear around our necks … at least until the Easter Bunny finally saves the day.

Read more of Paul Sullivan's columns at metronews.ca/justsaying

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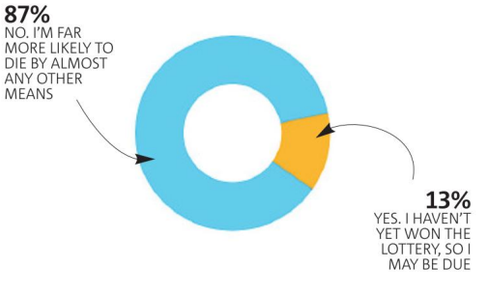

Local tweets

- **@colonized-mutant:** A few people pepper sprayed quite badly trying 2 get in city hall. Police handcuffed barricades together and locked the front door. #topoli
- **@TdotWorks:** Wow. Cho's motion to lessen library cuts passes by just 1 vote. Most saw it as a dead letter. Hard not to feel tide's turning. #TOPoli
- **@elcostello:** This budget is running away faster and faster from Fordists. #topoli #tocouncil #thethumbissevered
- **@alexoliveira:** Maybe some folks could run for council instead of yelling things a few times a year at meetings of their choosing #slacker-activism #topoli
- **@Dpuiatti:** Motion to #StoptheCuts to childcare, priority centres, ice-rinks, pools, community grants, shelters and TTC passes via @m_layton. #topoli
- **@joshin4colours:** I can't believe it, but it looks like city hall has actually just seen democracy, for real this time #topoli
- **@rolferrr:** I can't wait to see when Mayor Ford takes credit and calls tonight a huge victory for the taxpayer #TOpoli #TOcouncil

Daily Zoom

GETTY IMAGES

Horses of the apocalypse?

A gallop on fire to honour a saint

A man rides a horse through a bonfire in the small village of San Bartolomé de Pinares in Spain. In honour of St. Anthony (San Anton), the patron saint of animals, hundreds of horses are ridden through bonfires on the night before the official day of paying homage to animals. MWN

Then a feast of sausages after

These steeds leap through bonfires to drum beats and Spanish bagpipes until midnight, when the riding ends. By morning, when the fires have died down to embers, locals grill a feast of chorizo and blood sausage. Those taking part in the festival believe the flames and smoke "purify" the horses. MWN

"I myself remember from childhood this is how the village elders and I prayed to St. Anthony."

SAN BARTOLOMÉ MAYOR MARIA JESUS MARTIN TOLD LOCAL MEDIA. FOR CENTURIES AN EPIDEMIC WIPED OUT REGIONAL WORKHORSES. RESIDENTS THEN PRAYED TO ST. ANTHONY FOR PROTECTION BY BURNING AN EFFIGY AT THE STAKE AS A SYMBOL OF PURIFICATION.

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200 horses, as well as dogs, cats, pigs, birds and even ferrets, took part in San Bartolomé's annual blessing of the animals.

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Overcome your savings barriers

Get educated, get savvy, get frugal, get rid of debt and ... get started

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MONEY@METRONEWS.CA

The largest barriers to getting started saving and investing are lack of knowledge, inexperience, no money, and debt. To overcome these barriers, re-prioritize your time and resources.

GET EDUCATED. If you spend more time clipping your nails than you do learning about your finances, shape up! Sharpen your money knowledge by reading financial books like Smart Couples Finish Rich, Rich by 40, Millionaire Next Door, and Wealthy Barber. Cosy up to your laptop and visit personal finance sites like moneyville.ca, globeinvestor.com, getsmarteraboutmoney.com, and Yahoo! Finance (ca.finance.yahoo.com/). Meet with a minimum of three investment advisers, learn how they can help you invest wisely; then pick the one you like most.

GET SAVVY. Take 10 minutes a week of Internet time and invest it in your financial education. Read investment blogs and set up a mock portfolio on Yahoo! Finance; there is no real money at stake so pick your favourite companies. Do your Internet banking, set up a net worth spreadsheet, use free online financial tracking tools available at any bank website to keep tabs on budgets and spending. If you are in a relationship, swap financial "chores" or take on new ones each week like paying the bills online, negotiating interest rates, monitoring the budget or collecting receipts to track your spending.

GET FRUGAL. Living frugally, minding your dollars and cents and staying within a budget doesn't mean keeping up with the Jones's — fancy cars and designer shoes. Rather, it's about keeping debt low and savings high. Savvy spenders use coupons, buy on sale, and don't purchase junk they don't need. Plus, they experience less stress, fewer divorces and report higher levels of interpersonal satisfaction when compared to their un-frugal, debt-ridden peers.

GET RID OF DEBT. Debt is restrictive so get rid of it fast! The most effective ways to reduce debt are to make your payments automatically on the day you get paid, pay a little extra each month (even $10 makes a difference), and negotiate your interest rates so you pay as little interest as possible. DO NOT accumulate additional debt while you are digging your way out of the existing amount.

GET STARTED. Hands-down, the easiest way to save is through automatic contributions to tax advantaged investment plans such as the Registered Retirement Savings Plan (RRSP) and tax-free savings account (TFSA). Both can be set up at your local financial institution or through your employer.

You don't have to be a financial whiz

If a 10-year-old can figure it out, you can, too. I purchased my first Canada Savings Bond for $100 when I was 10 years old. I had received the money from my grandparents for my birthday and consulted my mother on what I could do with it.

Sure, I could have bought a bicycle, but when she explained that through compounded interest and reinvested returns, my $100 would turn into $135 seven years down the road, I figured that "free" money was a pretty good gig. That same month I picked up a local flyer route and babysat four times. I saved up another $100 and bought my bicycle. Every year after that I purchased bonds, mutual funds and stocks.

I didn't come from a wealthy home; nor were my parents financial experts. But I realized early on that you can save without too many sacrifices, AND you don't have to be a financial genius. LESLEY SCORGIE

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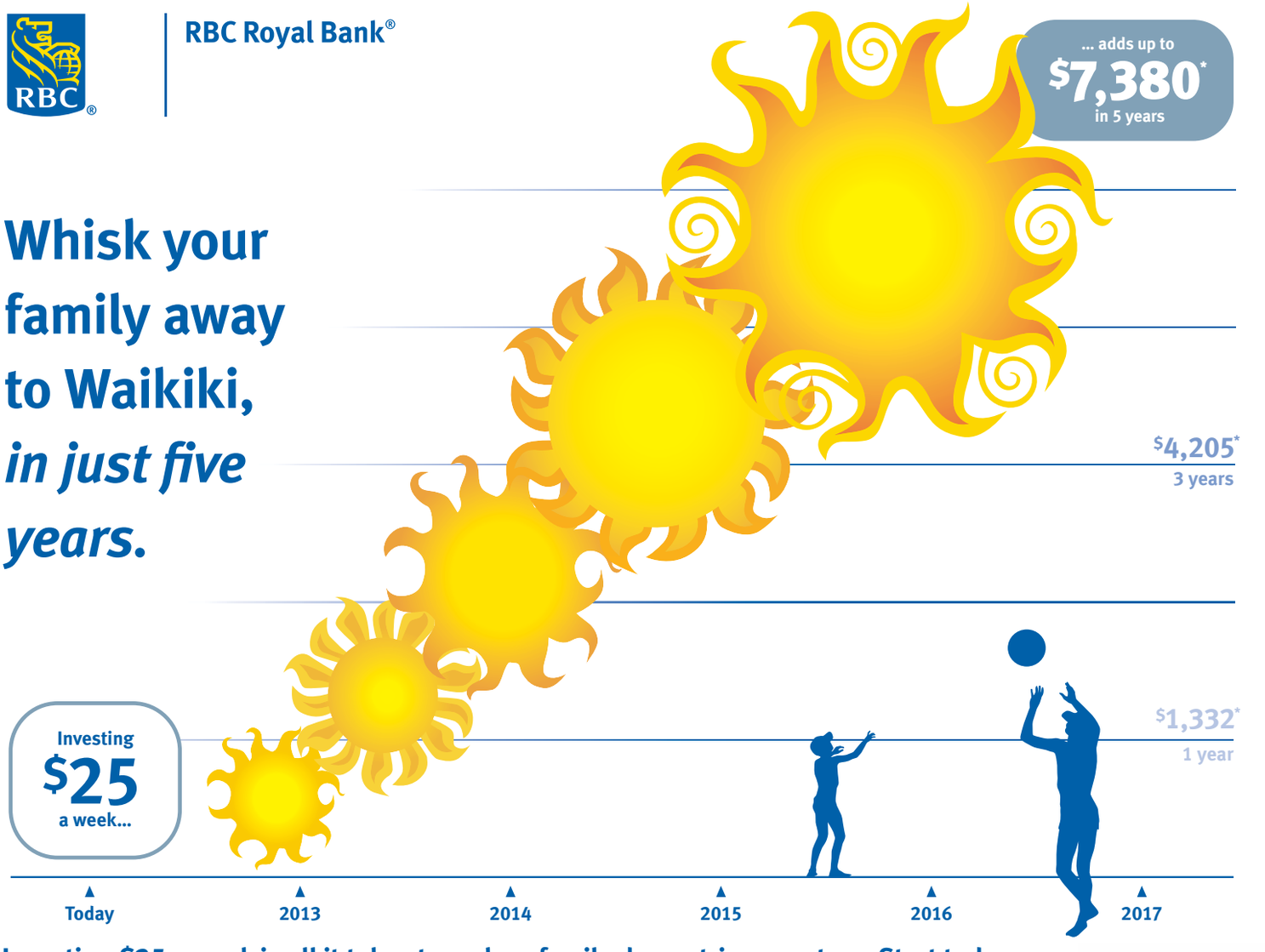

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Build your financial dream team

Here are four steps to building your financial dream team:

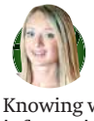
STEP 1: Find a financial adviser. Always get a referral from someone you trust. I would recommend interviewing a few, to see if you like them and to see if they are being honest and realistic. Ask each candidate to prepare a proposal of a financial plan. This will help you select the adviser most aligned with your goals.

STEP 2: Attain the right insurance to help protect your assets. Use an agent or company to which you have been referred, and interview a few. A good agent will direct you toward insuring for major things (life, home, loan, and auto), not minor items. Ask your candidates to prepare a proposal to address your needs.

STEP 3: Hire an accountant. Once you have started working with a financial adviser (net worth growth) and insurance adviser (asset protection), hire an accountant. An accountant's job is to legally minimize the tax you pay. He or she will advise you on how to manage your net worth growth in the most tax-efficient way. Get a referral and make an appointment at least once per year to ensure your finances are structured properly.

STEP 4: Ensure that you have access to a trusted lawyer. You won't need a lawyer's services often, but they are critical when you need to buy a house, draw up a will, or go to court. Accountants and lawyers charge by the hour, so go in organized and prepared to take care of business quickly and efficiently. LESLEY SCORGIE

Knowledge is ... power & money



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Knowing where to go to get solid financial information and investment research will help you become a smarter and more successful investor.

On its own, the price of a stock or unit of a fund means nothing; but when you compare price, earnings, management and other factors against comparable companies or funds, you get a better picture of what the investment is all about.

If a stock has caught your eye, start by visiting Sedar.com, which is provided by the Canadian Securities Administration. You can pull up any public company's financial statements and other material documents. Focus on the Management Discussion and Analysis (MD&A) and summary financial statements. Both items will give a comprehensive overview of the company's strategy and financial position.

If you are evaluating a fund, go to the provider's website and download the prospectus. This document reports who the professional fund managers are, the fund's financial performance and the overall investment strategy. Read reviews about the fund managers and pay close attention to long-term returns (10-plus years). Though past performance isn't indicative of future performance, funds with longer histories show how well they have weathered the ups and downs of the market.

Compare the fund's performance against others using tools like Globe Investor's Fund Filter (globefunddb.theglobeandmail.com/gishome/plsql/gis.analyser) and Morningstar's Fund Tools (morningstar.ca).

For stock or unit quotes, news and stats, visit Yahoo! Finance or the stock exchange. Most sites allow you to set up a "mock" portfolio to keep track of the investments in which you are interested.

If you have a brokerage account (discount or not), you will have access to analyst research produced by the firm where your account resides. Investment analysts prepare informative reports on companies and funds, covering line of business, historical financials, share price performance, earnings, capital-expenditure plans, and more.

Analyst's wrap up their research by setting a target price for the investment and provide a recommendation; buy, hold or sell. But watch out! There is no guarantee the analyst is right.

I always finish my research by getting a second opinion from a qualified investment adviser.

WAVEBREAK MEDIA/THINKSTOCK

▶ Investing in the markets is not the same as gambling; however, investing based on little to no information is. Research your investments.

Free resources

Gather research from a few different sources to get an objective opinion:

- Globe Investor (globeinvestor.com)
- Morningstar (morningstar.ca)
- Yahoo! Finance (ca.finance.yahoo.com/)
- SEDAR (Sedar.com)
- TMX Group (stock exchange — tmx.com)

Pick an investment approach

There are three ways to handle your investments: Don't do anything (ludicrous); do it yourself (good); or get professional help (excellent).

People who do nothing to manage their money or investments tend to wind up in nasty financial situations: Too much debt, no savings, and creditors knocking at their door. The saddest part is that they often have no clue how they got there. Doing nothing to manage your money or investments is ridiculous.

The second approach is to manage your own investments. It isn't rocket science. But, in order to do it well, you really need to know what you are doing.

The benefits of managing your own investments are; first, you call the shots. Second, you don't have to deal with potential conflicts of interest that can occur when you hire an adviser. For example, an adviser not working in your best interest could put your money in an expensive mutual fund that ends up paying him or her loads of commission but doesn't perform to your expectations. Third, if you set yourself up properly, you can achieve net worth growth and save money on professional money management fees.

The drawbacks are: First, you don't get advice or a second opinion. Second, you may have limited access to research and investment information. Third, it takes time to learn how to invest properly. LESLEY SCORGIE

The key is regular plan contributions

Find the right types of investments suited to your objectives RRSPs, TFSAs are most powerful earners

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Regardless of whether you are a Next-Gen or Gen X, the key with investing is contributing regularly to a tax-advantaged plan and owning the right types of investments suited to your investment objectives.

The most powerful investment plan is the Registered Retirement Savings Plan (RRSP), which allows you to save 18 per cent of your annual income (to a maximum of $22,970 for 2012). You receive a tax deduction in exchange for your contribution, which must be made by March 1 for a tax deduction for the previous year. Funds within the RRSP grow tax-free until withdrawal, at which time you pay taxes at the highest marginal tax rate. Remember though; you will be retired and making less than when you were working.

The major benefit of the RRSP is that tax deferral allows you to maximize your savings opportunities NOW because less of your income is going to taxes; very useful when you are starting out in your career, purchasing your first home, growing your family, and travelling.

Employer-sponsored retirement savings plans are very similar to RRSPs. Thus, contributions to either a defined benefit or defined contribution pension plan go towards your RRSP limit. If you are fortunate enough to have access to an employer plan, don't opt out. Most company-sponsored retirement plans, have a matching component. So, if you contribute four per cent of your salary, your employer might kick in an additional four per cent — a pseudo-raise! You can usually sign up within the first year of your employment.

Another powerful investment plan is the tax-free savings account (TFSA). You can contribute up to $5,000 into the TFSA annually. Though your contributions aren't eligible for a tax deduction, your earnings within the plan aren't taxed.

So, your money grows tax-free, even when it is withdrawn. Both the RRSP and TFSA are similar in that you can put a variety of investments within plans — stocks, bonds, mutual funds, etc. Plus your contribution room is carried forward indefinitely; so if you can't contribute one year, you can make up for it the next year.

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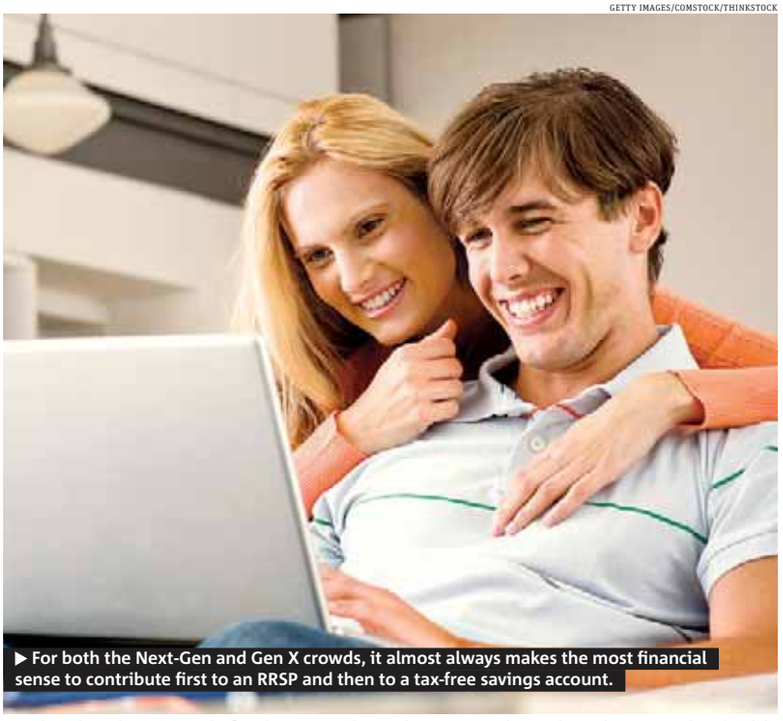

▶ For both the Next-Gen and Gen X crowds, it almost always makes the most financial sense to contribute first to an RRSP and then to a tax-free savings account.

For both the Next-Gen and Gen X crowds, it almost always makes the most financial sense to contribute first to the RRSP; second to the TFSA; and third to a non-tax advantaged plan (but only if you have maxed out the other two plans). This is because the RRSP limits are higher than that of the TFSA; thus you will receive a much greater tax benefit.

Investing outside of the RRSP and TFSA, when you haven't maximized your contributions, means you will pay more taxes and why in the world would you ever want to do that?

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SAVING FOR

ALTHOUGH RETIREMENT MAY SEEM LIKE IT'S DECADES AWAY, STARTING TO SAVE WHILE YOU ARE YOUNG CAN HELP SET THE STAGE FOR A COMFORTABLE RETIREMENT

Voting with your investments

Socially Responsible Investments encompass protection of people, health, environment, and human rights

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The global Socially Responsible Investment (SRI) market has grown significantly over the past decade due to increased ethical governance measures from boards, pension fund managers, and mandatory reporting on environmental performance. But long-term returns can be hit-and-miss, so get professional advice before you dive in.

SRI encompasses the protection of people, health, environment, and human rights. There are three approaches to SRI: Divest your interests out of an unethical situation; screen out certain investments and avoid including them in your portfolio altogether; and/or become a shareholder activist to produce change through advocacy and shareholder voting rights.

"This typically means avoiding investing in companies involved in environmental degradation, endangering public health, and human rights abuses."

You can invest independently, based solely on your own research; or invest within a fund managed by a professional money manager who will employ similar strategies on your behalf. In return, you pay management fees.

To mitigate the risk of choosing a bad investment, do your research and consider fund history, management, and future direction. Try to stick with companies that produce regular sustainability reports and/or funds that have existed for more than 10 years.

Most professionally managed SRI's are based on screening out "negative" values associated with "irresponsible" corporations. This typically means avoiding investing in companies involved in environmental degradation, endangering public health, and human rights abuses. Socially responsible fund managers tend to avoid businesses involved in tobacco, alcohol, gambling and the development of weaponry.

If firms are measured on their contribution to innovation, which ultimately protects the environment and human health, investors will have greater bottom line performance — comparable to mainstream investments.

RESP 101 for parents

Planning ahead using the Registered Education Savings Plan (RESP) is the best way for families to save for a child's education. The major benefits of the RESP are; first, money grows through the power of compounded returns; second, the growth is tax-deferred and; third, the government gives you free money towards the plan.

As soon as your child is born, open an RESP account for them. All you need is a social insurance number for your child and a 30-minute appointment with your financial adviser. A professional adviser will assist you in selecting the right investments for the RESP portfolio.

The RESP benefits from the Canada Education Savings Grant (CESG). The plan will match up to 20 per cent of your contributions to a maximum benefit of $500. There is a lifetime grant limit of $7,200. So, if you invest $2,500, the CESG gives you an additional $500. That's free money — take it!

Every time you get paid, automatically contribute to the RESP that same day. If you aim to save $2,500 per year, that works out to approximately $50 per week, which is less than a family night out at the movies. LESLEY SCORGIE

YOUR FUTURE MADE EASY

"You don't have to give up what you enjoy now to save money for the future," said Amalia Costa, Retirement Strategies, RBC. "It can be easy by starting off with a small amount every month."

Consider the following scenario: Sarah and James are twins. Sarah is 25, has a decent job, and decides to begin contributing to an RRSP. To make things easy, she contributes about $150 a month through an automatic plan. By the end of the year, her contributions total $1,800. Over the next 10 years she will build up a nest egg of approximately $25,000, assuming an annual rate of return of 6 per cent. At the age of 35, Sarah decides to focus on paying down her mortgage, as well as investing in a Tax Free Savings Account. She feels secure knowing that even if she doesn't contribute to her RRSP again, it should grow to almost $153,000 by the time she turns 65.*

James takes a different approach. Like his sister, he too has a steady job. He decides to start investing at the age of 37 and begins to make the $1,800 annual contribution. In order to keep up with Sarah, he will have to keep those contributions up for 29 years, as opposed to Sarah's 10 years, to ensure he has a nest egg of just under $140,500 by the time he's 65.*

"Our advice is to start saving as early as possible," said Costa. "A good way to save is to set up an automatic savings plan and create that savings habit. This way, you don't see the money and you hardly miss it, but it's already working for you."

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What type of investor are you?

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COMSTOCK IMAGES/THINKSTOCK

▶ Work with a professional financial adviser to determine the types of investments that are best suited to your personality.

The following are general descriptions of investment personality types. Seek the advice of a qualified investment adviser to determine your appropriate asset allocation.

CONSERVATIVE: A conservative investor is highly averse to risk and should select the least aggressive investments. Conservative investors are either extremely risk averse or have a shorter time frame to invest, perhaps they are very close to retirement. Their primary focus is on asset protection and income generation. Therefore, the majority of their assets fall into a conservative category, such as fixed-income securities, cash, and some less risky assets.

MODERATE: A moderate investor typically has a longer time frame than a conservative investor to invest, but less than a balanced investor. A moderate investor still focuses on asset protection, and wants his or her portfolio to generate steady income rather than growth. A moderate investor is comfortable with risk, but is still considered risk averse in the broad scheme of things. Therefore, the moderate investor's portfolio tends to comprise fixed-income securities and some less-risky equities. Individuals who are somewhat risk averse, but want some growth, or are perhaps looking at protecting their assets for a nearing retirement, fall into this category.

BALANCED: A balanced investor is looking for long-term growth, but still wants security and income. Therefore, his or her portfolio is balanced between less risky equities and fixed-income securities. The balanced investor wants to moderately grow their portfolio by taking the least amount of risk possible given his or her needs. Many individuals fall into the balanced category, as it's a balanced approach to portfolio growth. In fact, when in doubt, a balanced portfolio of half fixed income and half equities is suitable for just about anyone.

GROWTH-ORIENTED: A growth-oriented investor wants significant long-term growth and takes calculated risks for potentially higher rewards. He or she may be the type of person who takes time to evaluate and digest the details of a transaction prior to making it. This investor's portfolio primarily comprises growth-oriented equities that will appreciate in value. Growth equities tend to have higher risk associated with them along with potentially higher returns. A growth-oriented investor typically has a long time frame to invest his or her money and can handle market volatility. Younger investors generally fall into this category.

AGGRESSIVE: An aggressive investor wants aggressive long-term growth and is willing to take more risk in order to achieve it. He or she has the potential to make the most and lose the most of any investment personality. This profile fits the individual who has a lot of time to invest and isn't concerned by short-term volatility. His or her portfolio is made up primarily of aggressive high-risk equities. More experienced investors comfortable with high risk generally fall into this category.

Depending on your investment personality, certain investments will meet your needs.

Thus, it's very important to work with a professional financial adviser to determine the types of investments that are best suited to your personality.

Get to know your investment personality type

To allocate your investments properly, it's important to know your investment personality type: Conservative, moderate, balanced, growth-oriented, or aggressive. Take this fun quiz to get a picture of what type of personality you have. (Excerpt from Lesley Scorgie's second book Rich by 40: A Young Couple's Guide to Building Net Worth).

1. How old are you?
A) 55 or older
B) 45 to 54
C) 35 to 44
D) 25 to 34
E) under 24

2. How many years away are you from retirement?
A) 10 years or less
B) 10 to 14 years
C) 15 to 19 years
D) 20 to 29 years
E) 30 years or more

3. Which statement do you most agree with?
A) I don't invest and I know diddly squat about investments.
B) I invest, but I know diddly squat about the investments I've put my money into.
C) I invest and I know basic investment information like the types of investments in my portfolio and where I bought them.
D) I invest and I know what assets are in my portfolio and why I have them.
E) I invest and I know what assets I own, why I have them, and I'm actively involved in managing my portfolio.

4. If the value of your portfolio plunges by five or 10 per cent in one day, you feel:
A) Like vomiting.
B) Nauseated, but you'll get over it.
C) Neutral — you weren't paying attention.
D) Aware, but you're fine.
E) A-OK; it happens.

5. Are you willing to hold on to your investments even when their value plunges?
A) No freakin' way!
B) Probably not.
C) Maybe, maybe not.
D) Probably.
E) Absolutely.

6. What statement do you most agree with when it comes to investing?
A) I don't care what return I make, I just want to protect the money I have.
B) I want the safest investments with the least risk possible.
C) I want to make a modest return on my investments so I'm willing to take some risk.
D) I take time to evaluate my risks and I'll take a risk if the potential return seems worth it.
E) I take higher risks because I know I'll get higher returns. I also know I can lose the most if I'm wrong.

If you answered "A" to most of these questions, you are likely more conservative. If the majority of your answers were "B," you are fairly moderate. If "C," then you are more balanced. If you answered "D," you are growth-oriented, and if "E," then you are more aggressive. If you had a wide combination of answers, check out the descriptions above to see if any particular one seems to fit you better than another.

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Can you locate these financial terms in our WORD SEARCH?

They run in all directions, forward, backward, up, down and diagonally. Good luck!

MUTUAL FUND	PLAN
INVEST	EDUCATION
VACATION	SAVINGS
STOCK	ASSET
BOND	EQUITY
EXPENSES	RISK
RRSP	BOTTOM LINE
TFSA	GOALS
RESP	PENSION PLAN
	GIC

N V F T K D N O I T A C A V E
A H T E F D F D C X K L T Z D
L U E R B S S E S N E P X E U
P R M U T U A L F U N D X S C
N K T G Y M P K Q Y T E S S A
O R D A B E S E A U R I T Y T
I N A L P I R Q X D I T O S I
S J R T R N R U R N G I C L O
N S T S E V N I J O D Z K A N
E N I L M O T T O B S S H O Y
P S E R G N V Y S A V I N G S

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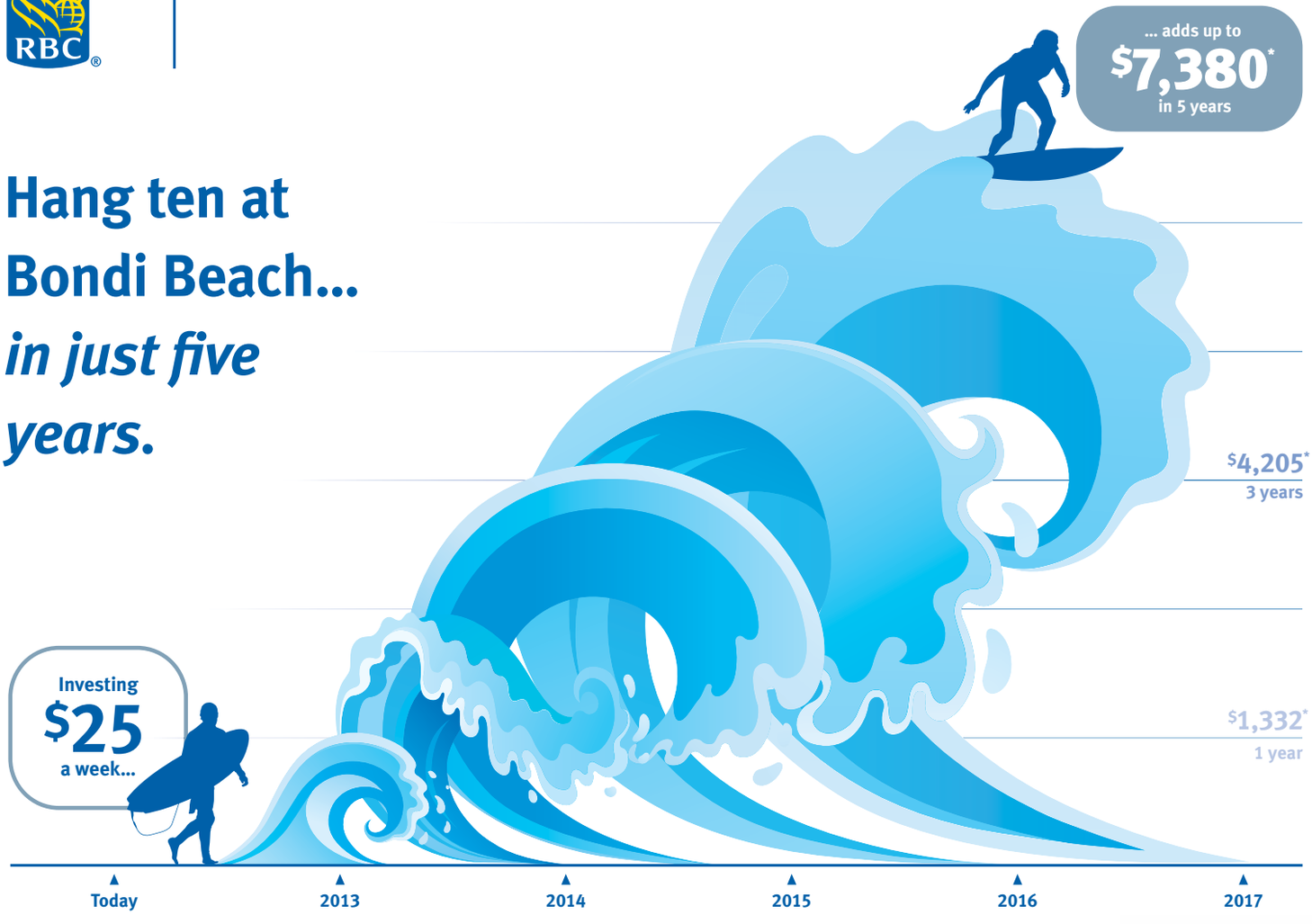

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Ready to start? Talk to us.
Visit a branch, call 1-866-808-3178 or go to rbc.com/bondi

Advice you can bank on™

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Can we still draw on comics?

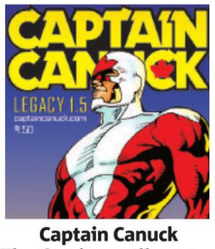
Nicolas Cage rides back into theatres as Ghost Rider in mid-February With tier-two comic book heroes getting hit up for a sequel, it begs the question: After a decade-long spandex-and-leather blockbuster boom, are there any comic book film adaptations left in the tank?

Green Arrow

This B-league bow-master has been hitting hard targets since 1941, but outside of fan-boy circles he might as well be a contestant on American Archer. Not only does Green Arrow borrow from Robin Hood's wardrobe but he also shares the Englishman's penchant for the redistribution of wealth.

Movie Buzz: Years back, Kevin Smith's name was bandied about in connection with an Arrow movie. More recently NY Times bestselling author Brad Meltzer has dropped hints that he'd pen the script.

Odds of ever making the big screen: Slim as a solo deal but sky-high in a Justice League of America (JLA) live-action flick.

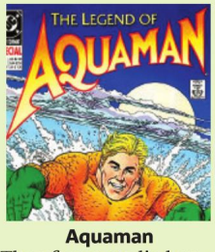


Captain Canuck

The Cap is a well-mannered Mountie who acquires super-strength after a run-in with some aliens while camping. He then dons red-and-white spandex with a maple leaf emblazoned on his forehead while tangling with baddies. In its original incarnation the series was set in a future world where Canada had become, according to the first issue, "the most important country in the world."

Movie Buzz: Mind's Eye Entertainment owns the film rights and plans on developing the project with the cooperation of series creator Richard Comely.

Odds of ever making the big screen: Pretty good, eh.

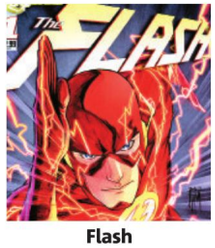


Aquaman

The often-parodied super-swimmer has been breathing underwater and having telepathic conversations with fish, mollusks and other sea life since 1941. Ventriloquist and comedian Jeff Dunham points out that Aquaman has the same powers as SpongeBob SquarePants.

Movie Buzz: If Shaq could suit up and play Steel, Michael Phelps can dye his hair blonde and start chatting up some beluga whales.

Odds of ever making the big screen: While HBO's Entourage featured the making of an Aquaman action movie with James Cameron, the underwater hero doesn't get that caliber of Hollywood love in real life.



Flash

In the comic book world the mantle of the fastest man alive has been held by Jay Garrick, Barry Allan, Wally West and Bart Allan. A mainstay in the T-shirt wardrobe of Big Bang Theory's Dr. Sheldon Cooper, Flash has remained fashion forward in geek circles for more than 70 years.

Movie Buzz: Fan-boys are chirping a mile a minute and "Rock the Lightning" would be a great poster tagline.

Odds of ever making the big screen: In 1990-91 CBS ran a single season of The Flash starring John Wesley Ship. But if there's ever a JLA movie, Warner Bros. will greenlight a Flash solo joint in a red-hot minute.

CONTRIBUTED

Black Panther

Beyond Wesley Snipes vamping it up in Blade movies, there haven't been too many mainstream African-American superhero movies. Created by Stan Lee and Jack Kirby in 1966, Black Panther — the protector of the fictitious African nation of Wakanda — is the Jackie Robinson of superheroes laying the groundwork for all that followed including Luke Cage, Falcon, Storm and Spawn.

Movie Buzz: Some small murmurs a the moment.

Odds of ever making the big screen: They'd need to get creative with the title, otherwise many would assume the movie was about the radical organization of the same name. MIKE DOJC

2 scene

In brief

Should Jake Gyllenhaal be worried? Taylor Swift tells Vogue magazine her next album will be about an "absolute crash-and-burn heartbreak" she experienced.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Marvel says creativity, compelling stories will drive comics again in 2012.

Aviation films still fly

Rumour has it Red Tails' air battles amongst the best created on film
But George Lucas has 100 years of aerial photography to compete with

IN FOCUS

RICHARD CROUSE
SCENE@METRONEWS.CA

The first Best Picture Oscar winner was Wings, a 1927 aviation flick featuring an inane love story but some spectacular aerial footage.

Director William A. Wellman used his experience as a celebrated combat pilot during World War I to create the movie's realistic and thrilling dogfights, which packed audiences into first-run theatres for 63 weeks straight.

George Lucas, the producer of this weekend's Red Tails, must be hoping for similar success for his aviation movie. If Red Tails draws crowds, he says, he wants to expand the story of African American World War II pilots the Tuskegee Airmen into a trilogy.

Advance word suggests Red Tails' air battles are amongst the best ever created on film. Perhaps so, but Lucas has 100 years of elaborate aerial photography to compete with.

The flying sequences in Battle of Britain, the 1969 recreation of the British RAF's defeat of the Luftwaffe, are regarded as the gold standard of aviation footage. To shoot these spectacular scenes the filmmakers assembled such a large collection of vintage planes that the production briefly became the 35th largest air force in the world.

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Red Tails is in theatres this weekend.

But not all the planes were authentic. Mock-ups of Spitfires and Hurricanes, powered by lawn mower engines, can be seen taxiing down runways.

Shooting complicated stunt scenes always involves risk, but rarely has a movie been as deadly as Howard Hughes's aerial epic Hell's Angels.

The eccentric Hughes shot the movie as a silent film in 1928, and then reshot the entire thing the following year when sound equipment became available. In the process, 70 WWI aces were used, and three were killed. Hughes himself was injured when he crashed after performing a tricky aerial stunt.

The most famous aerial movie of recent years has to be Top Gun. Inspired by a California magazine story about the U.S. Navy's Top Gun School, the movie used several real aircraft from F-14 fighter squadron VF-51 Screaming Eagles. The planes cost the production $7,800 per hour for fuel and other operating costs, and one shot cost three times that.

Legend has it that director Tony Scott wanted to film an aircraft landing on an aircraft carrier, backlit by the sun. The captain, however, changed course before Scott got his shot. When the director was informed it would cost $25,000 to turn the ship around Scott pulled out a chequebook, wrote the cheque and got his shot.

Stage Notes

JONATHAN NAYMARK
SCENEOPOLIS.COM

A fresh take on musicals

This urban musical hits the right notes with its contemporary music

JOHN DAUGHTRY

▶ A scene from In the Heights.

A fresh take on the modern musical, In the Heights opens at the Toronto Centre for the Performing Arts in North York on Feb. 7.

Exploring the lives of several immigrant Americans living in the relatively un-glamorous New York City "barrio" of Washington Heights, In the Heights blends traditional musical elements with modern influences to great success.

Lyricist Lin-Manuel Miranda developed the concept for In the Heights during his time as an undergraduate university student. After its off-Broadway premiere in 2005, the show premiered on Broadway in 2008 where it received numerous accolades and several Tony Awards including the Tony for Best Musical.

Musically refreshing, In the Heights blends the traditional sing-a-long of standard Broadway musicals with highly contemporary American forms of music, including rap and salsa.

Most of the action takes place around the neighbourhood's central bodega — where the owner Usnavi, his frequent customers and neighbouring shop-owners begin to question their position as the Heights gentrifies.

In the Heights is a very urban musical — at its heart it is about the story of immigrants and their desire to transcend their immigrant experience. Intriguingly, however, In the Heights ponders if the American experience is indeed the right one.

In the Heights is on stage from February 7 - 19. Save 25 per cent on tickets to In the Heights at Sceneopolis.com.

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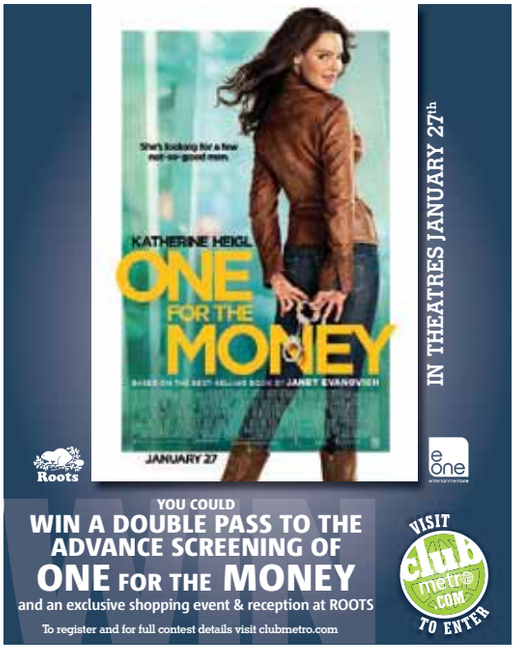

Paula Deen: Now is 'God's time' to make some cash

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

▶ Paula Deen

- The queen of unhealthy cooking reveals she has Type 2 diabetes
- Interesting that she just got a sweet deal to promote a diabetes drug...

THE WORD

DOROTHY ROBINSON
SCENE@METRONEWS.CA

Thanks to a super scoop by The Daily, it's been known that celebrity chef of all things fattening — deep-fried butter balls, Velveeta fudge, and butter, mayo, and whiz spread, to name just a few of her recipes — Paula Deen had developed Type 2 diabetes and would soon go on a publicity blitz about the diagnosis.

Well, that whirlwind media tour happened yesterday when she went on The Today Show as well as grant an interview to USA Today.

Although she's apparently been diabetic for over two years (while continuing to shill her high-fat, high-calorie cooking), she decided to go public now because, as she puts it, it wasn't "God's time" when she first learned she was sick.

"I felt like I had nothing to offer anybody other than the announcement. I wasn't armed with enough knowledge. I knew when it was time, it would be in God's time," she told USA Today.

Interestingly enough, for Deen, "God's time" means "time to finagle a lucrative contract with a makers of a diabetes drug." As, oh yes, Deen used that lull to sign on as a sponsor for the diabetes medicine Victoza.

A new website featuring Deen as their spokesperson also launched Monday.

Deen doesn't want to say how much money she's making off the deal.

She tells USA Today, "Talking about money is garish. It's tacky. But, of course, I've been compensated for my time. That's the way our world works."

Is it just me, or is it also garish and tacky to continue to shill your junk food to people even though you know it can make them sick — like it did you?

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3 life

Travel in brief

Wild Women Expeditions is celebrating its 22nd season in operation with adventures in every region of Canada. What started in 1991 as an all-women canoe tripping company has expanded across Canada and is now offering kayak, flatwater and whitewater canoe, hiking, cycling, surfing and yoga adventures. Starting in June, many expeditions are available. Visit wildwomenexp.com/calendar. METRO

Dare to Wear Love museum exhibit features Canadian fashions inspired by Africa

Aruba: One happy island

Aruba has some of the best beaches in the Caribbean and it's outside the hurricane zone But there's more to this island than the beach

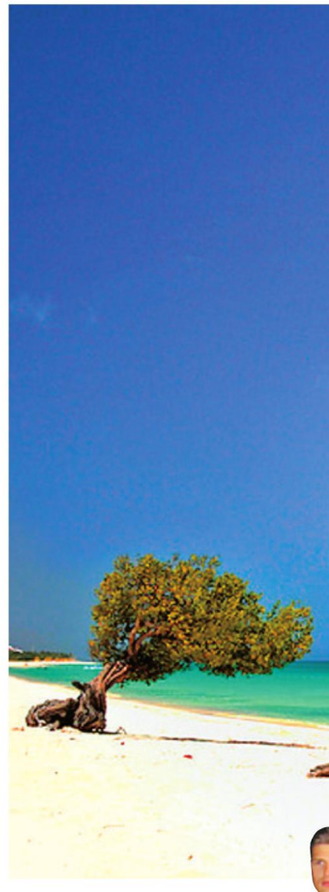
VAWN HIMMELSBACH
LIFE@METRONEWS.CA

Aruba, a tiny island only 25 kilometres from the Venezuelan coastline, is known for its turquoise water and white sandy beaches. But, unlike many of its Caribbean neighbours, it hasn't been taken over by all-inclusive resorts and all of its beaches are public.

It's safe, easy to get around, and you'll find hundreds of restaurants, bars and nightclubs in Oranjestad, the island's picturesque capital, so you won't be stuck eating at the same buffet table every day.

COURTESY ARUBA TOURISM AUTHORITY

▶ All of Aruba's beaches are public.



What to do

If you can manage to tear yourself away from your poolside lounge chair and mojito, there's no shortage of easily accessible activities on the island — scuba diving, snorkeling, windsurfing, kitesurfing, sea kayaking, water skiing and sailing, to name just a few. There's also hiking, quad trekking and sunset horseback riding in the island's national park. As for beaches, Eagle Beach and Palm Beach are among the best beaches in the Caribbean, perfect for swimming and sunbathing.

For windsurfing/kitesurfing: To take advantage of the near-constant trade winds, head to Boca Grandi, Malmok, Grapefield or Fisherman's Huts.

Diving and snorkeling

Aruba is the wreck diving capital of the Caribbean with more than 20 wreck sites off of the coast just waiting to be explored — including the German freighter Antilla, from the Second World War. Whether you're a novice or advanced diver, you can spot a range of aquatic life. Several outfitters such as De Palm Tours and Red Sail Sports offer catamaran trips to the island's best snorkeling spots.

Events

January-March, Carnival: This is Aruba's biggest party of the year, complete with street parties and parades, flamboyant costumes and fantastic music.

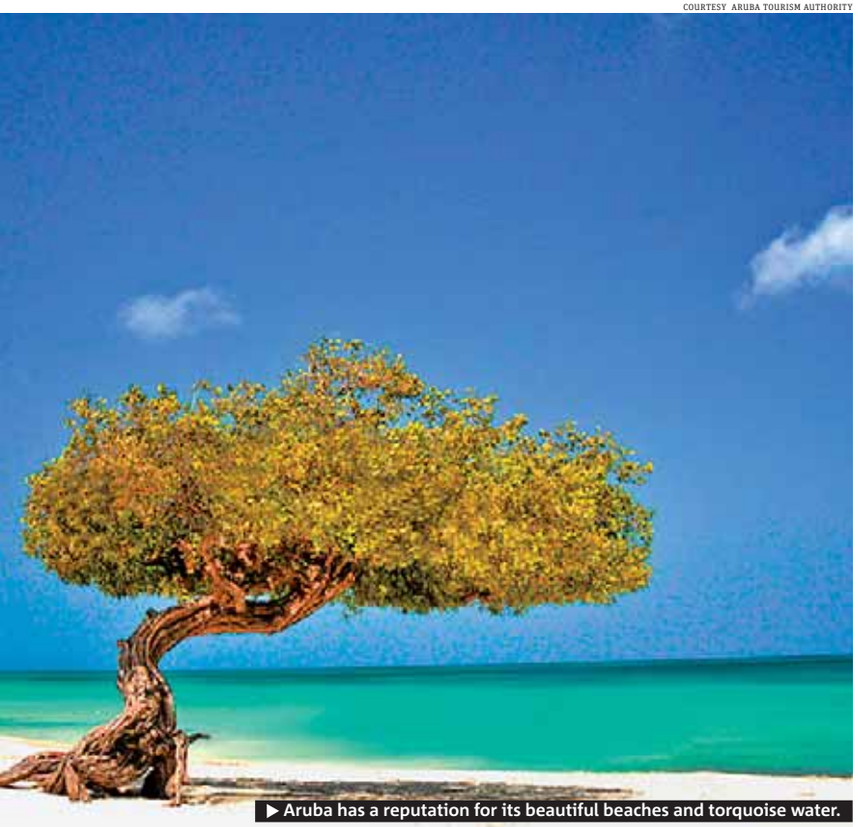
May, Aruba Soul Beach Music Festival: This star-studded, two-night concert series has previously featured India Arie, Alicia Keys and Jennifer Hudson. For more, visit soulbeach.net.

June, Aruba International Film Festival: Actors, producers and film-makers from around the world will descend on Aruba for eight days to celebrate international film. For more, visit arubafilm.com.

November, Aruba in Style (Fashion Week): Don't miss this yearly fashion, entertainment and lifestyle event — a mix of trendy fashion shows, glamorous parties and high-end shopping.

Aruban adventures for land lovers

COURTESY ARUBA TOURISM AUTHORITY



▶ Aruba has a reputation for its beautiful beaches and torquoise water.

Where to stay...

- The newly renovated Radisson Aruba Resort, Casino & Spa is the hotel group's flagship property, situated on 15 acres alongside Palm Beach.
- The Radisson's Sunset Grille is the only restaurant on the island that has achieved AAA Four Diamond status; try the prime rib or fresh seafood.

Snuba and sea trekking

Looking for something different?

Try snuba (which offers an experience similar to diving, but uses an oxygen tube attached to a boat so that you don't have to be a certified diver), or sea trekking, where you walk along the sea floor wearing a specially designed helmet for diving.

Papiamento

While English is widely spoken, Aruba has its own unique language called Papiamento, which is a combination of Spanish, Portuguese, Dutch, French, English and a few African languages. Here are a few translations:

Welcome: Bon bini

Good morning: Bon dia

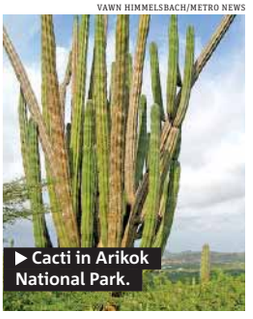
Thank you: Danki

Bye: Ajo

For non-aquatic adventure, head to Aruba's national park, Arikok National Park, a protected area that covers 18 per cent of the island.

Here you'll find more than 32 kilometres of hiking trails among several species of cacti (go on your own or on a guided tour with one of the knowledgeable park rangers), as well as historical sites, limestone caves with Amerindian pictographs, and the pounding surf of Dos Playa, ideal for surfing and bodyboarding.

VAWN HIMMELSBACH/METRO NEWS



▶ Cacti in Arikok National Park.

VAWN HIMMELSBACH

COURTESY ARUBA TOURISM AUTHORITY

▶ Aruba is the wreck diving capital of the world.

Where to eat

Thankfully, Aruba offers a lot more than the all-inclusive buffet. In fact, there are several hundred options, from high-end dining to local seafood shacks.

Papiamento Restaurant: Join the Ellis family in their 175-year-old manor house for upscale dining in a tropical garden setting. Try the local specialty Keshi Yena, made with minced tenderloin and chicken stewed with prunes, raisins and cashews, topped with Dutch cheese.

Cuba's Cooking: You'll find genuine Cuban cuisine in one of the oldest houses of historic downtown Oranjestad, including ropa vieja, picadillo and palomilla steak — and one of the best bolero singing pairs outside of Havana.

Zeerovers Fish Bar: Head to this typical Aruban fisherman's bar in Savaneta for freshly caught fish and shrimps — this is where the locals go for the catch of the day. Forks are optional.

VAWN HIMMELSBACH/METRO NEWS

▶ Zeerover's Fish Bar.

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Celebrate in concert

JEFF CHIU/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

▶ The parade's opening act will be a group of performers from China.

The San Francisco Symphony Chinese New Year Community Concert and Celebration 2012 features a mix of music and instruments from East and West.

The concert begins 4 p.m. Feb. 11 and early arrivers will be greeted with a family-friendly festival reception at 3 p.m. with arts and crafts, food, Asian instruments, lion dancers, Chinese calligraphers and more.

Carolyn Kuan will conduct and the program includes the Yellow River piano concerto.

Tickets are $15 to $68 and can be purchased at sfsymphony.org .

The symphony plays at Davies Symphony Hall, the box office is on Grove Street between Van Ness Avenue and Franklin Street.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Head to the zoo

The San Francisco Zoo is commemorating the Lunar New Year on Jan. 29, with Chinese acrobatic performances, traditional lion and folk dancing, Chinese yo-yo tricks and more. Visitors can take a self-guided zodiac tour leading them to animals found on the Chinese calendar. Yes, they do have a dragon, says zoo spokesman Danny Latham. It's a bearded dragon, so it doesn't actually fly or breathe fire, but it is a cool lizard nonetheless. Admission is $15 for ages 15 to 64; $12 for those over 65; $9 for ages four to 14 and free for three and under. In honour of the day, admission is free for all those born in Dragon years (1928, 1940, 1952, 1964, 1976, 1988, 2000 and 2012). The zoo entrance is Sloat Boulevard and the Great Highway. Parking is $10 on weekends. Within San Francisco, take the Muni L Taraval line outbound to the zoo. Bus lines 23 and 18 also stop at the zoo. Visit sfzoo.org/announcements/lunarnewyearcelebration.

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the dragon

The Year of the Dragon is approaching — the year ruled by the most powerful sign in the Chinese zodiac Check out these events planned in San Francisco

Watch the parade

Stepping off at Second and Market streets at 5:15 p.m. on Feb. 11, the Southwest Airlines Chinese New Year Parade features floats, dance teams, bands and other performances.

The route follows Geary and Post streets before ending at Kearny at Columbus; organizers recommend Post Street as a good place to watch. The event is free, but bleacher seat tickets can be purchased for $30 each.

This year, groups from all over the state are participating, says parade spokeswoman Karen Eng, and the opening act will be a group of performers from China.

The event traces its roots to the 19th century, when Chinese immigrants showcased their culture using the all-American tradition of a parade.

Details including maps and where to order tickets can be found at chineseparade.com.

ERIN LUBIN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

San Francisco has a rich tradition of Chinese culture.

Start the year off on the right foot

The Chinatown YMCA holds its 34th annual Chinese New Year Run on Feb. 19. The route starts at Sacramento Street and Grant Avenue and winds through Chinatown. One route is 10 kilometres and the other is a five kilometres.

About 2,000 people are expected to take part in the event, which benefits the Chinatown YMCA Community Center. Register at ymcasf.org/Chinatown.

Registration is $30 by check and $33 by credit card, increasing to $36 and $39 after Feb. 1.

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Postcards from the planet

HEATHER GREENWOOD DAVIS
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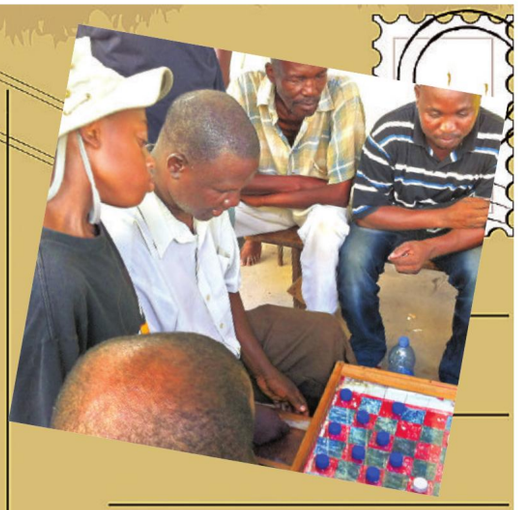
DAR ES SALAAM, TANZANIA
JAN. 14, 2012

Out for a walk we stumbled on a dozen men playing a game of checkers on a painted cloth board with plastic bottle caps for pieces. He watched at first, and then my nine-year-old motioned he wanted in. In the few moments that he managed to stave off defeat the men who spoke only swahili welcomed us. Laughs were shared; smiles and high fives exchanged. We had cracked the code. We were in.



WATCH AND LEARN MORE ABOUT HEATHER'S FAMILY ADVENTURE AND TRAVEL TIPS AT WHERE PARENTSTALK.COM

Out with the stars

Jasper National Park is the 'Disney World' of dark sky preserves, according to one well-known astronomer

Peter McMahon has stars in his eyes. His head is in the clouds. You might even say he's moonstruck, and he'd probably agree with you. But one thing is for certain — this is one space cadet whose feet are firmly on the ground.

McMahon is one of Canada's best-known astronomers, and certainly the most media savvy. He's travelled around the world to follow his dream of travelling among the stars.

So when he says that "Jasper National Park is becoming the Disney World of dark sky preserves," he means it in a good way.

McMahon was in Jasper for its first-ever Dark Sky Festival — a weekend of events in October celebrating Jasper National Park's designation at the world's largest — and darkest — dark sky preserve. Jasper turns out to be one of the best places in the world to get lost in space.

So it seems strange that his guided tour of the heavens is taking place on a bright sunny morning. Just what kind of tour you can possibly do with Sol high in the southern sky? McMahon is sparkling with enthusiasm and aims his telescope at the faint daytime moon hanging over a mountain known as The Whistlers.

But when it comes to gazing at the moon, everything is much clearer in the light of day.

Other astronomers — most from the Royal Astronomical Society in Edmonton — have gathered on the lawn of Jasper's information centre.

One star gazer has set up his specially equipped telescope and set the controls for the heart of the sun. It's one of those rare opportunities to ignore your parents' warnings and do what you've always been told not to do: look right at the sun.

"What are those things that look like clouds moving across the face of the sun?" a reporter asks.

"Those are clouds," says the astronomer, who points out that clouds have an earthly — not solar — origin.

When evening falls, it's time to go to the mobile Telus Planetarium — a sort of inflatable igloo that magically transforms the inside of a school gym into a high-tech dome for taking a star trek.

Tyson Wagner from the Telus World of Science in Edmonton is the storyteller. He's one of those cool Big Bang Theory-type of nerds: Someone who

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Orlando Family Special
Air + 7 Nights $499◊
Seralago Hotel and Suites — + taxes & fees $121
INCLUDES family-style accom near Old Town. Price per person based on family of 4. Departs Mar 12/ggv/aa. UPGRADE to 4-star Buena Vista Palace for $21 per night. ADD Legoland for $83.

Mont Tremblant
Air + 4 Nights + Lift Pass $779
Le Tours des Voyageurs — + taxes & fees $150
INCLUDES ski-in/ski-out slopeside accom. Departs Mar 12/ggv/pd. UPGRADE to 5-star Fairmont Tremblant for $37 per night. ADD 3-day lift pass to Tremblant for $98 per day.

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STEPHEN A. NELSON/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Peter McMahon, left, is one of Canada's best-known astronomers.

seems to have got his start in astronomy from watching Clash of The Titans. He swears he was into astronomy "long before that movie came out."

Using the dome of the inflatable igloo as his drawing board, Wagner points out Cassiopeia — the Greek queen whose vanity and beauty invokes the jealousy of the gods. To the north is her husband, King Cepheus. And to the south, their daughter Andromeda whom they sacrifice to the Kraken — the sea monster with a taste for beautiful young women — in order to appease the jealous gods. To the southeast is Perseus, the helmeted hero who first beheads the monstrous Medusa before flying on the wings of Pegasus to defeat the Kraken and rescue Andromeda.

When darkness has covered the land, it's off to Pyramid Lake, about 10 minutes away from the town of Jasper and a galaxy away from the city lights. But the night skies are cloudy and gloomy and not at all hopeful. There are stars in the southern sky but you can't see them. Easily recognizable favourites such as Orion the Hunter and Venus the Evening Star are obscured from our view.

But a West Wind blows and pulls back the curtain of clouds covering the northern sky.

Local Parks Canada astronomers conduct guided tours. Brian Catto, Parks Canada's resident skywalker, pulls out his laser pointer and draws a picture in the sky — just as Wagner had done on the inflatable dome of the planetarium.

And there they are, larger than life: Cassiopeia, Perseus, Medusa, and Pegasus. There's also Hercules. And finally, the crowning glory: Jupiter, king of the gods, is rising over the crest of the Colin range.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

If you go...

- Jasper in January Festival 2012: Fire and Ice takes place Jan. 13-29. Several dark sky events have been added to the popular winter fest, including a Dark Sky Canyon Crawl conducted by Maligne Tours, taking place nightly at Maligne Canyon.
- The Fire in The Sky stargazing event (hosted and sponsored by Parks Canada) takes place at Pyramid Island on Saturday, Jan. 28. Official website for festival: jinj.ca.

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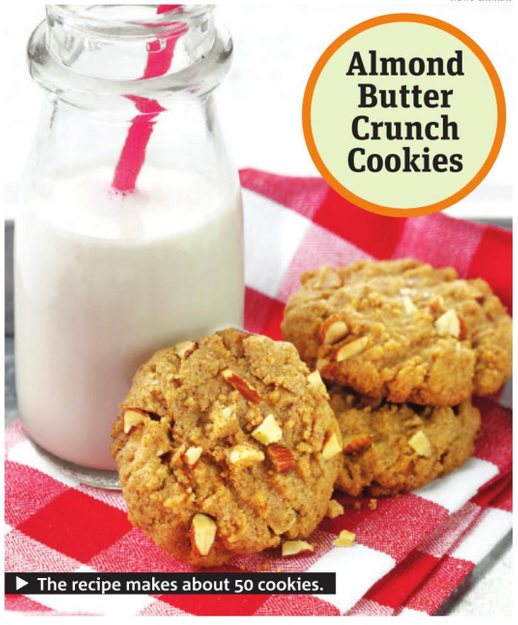
Almonds show sweet side

These crunchy cookies have a great texture thanks to almond butter and roasted almonds

NEWS CANADA



The recipe makes about 50 cookies.

Using almond butter helps deepen the almond flavour in these cookies as well as offers up a great texture.

Roasted almonds add crunch to the cookies, which makes them perfect to enjoy with an afternoon coffee.

Preparation:

1. Preheat oven to 350°F (180°C) and line a baking sheet with parchment paper.
2. In a large bowl, using an electric mixer, beat together almond butter, butter, brown sugar, egg and almond extract until light and fluffy.
3. In a separate bowl, combine flour, baking soda and salt. Add flour into creamed mixture slowly until well blended. Stir in diced almonds. Dough will be very crumbly; cover with plastic wrap and refrigerate for 30 minutes or until firm.
4. Form into 1-inch (2.5 cm) balls and place on baking sheet; flatten with a fork creating cross hatch pattern. Bake on centre rack in oven for 12 to 15 minutes or until lightly browned. Cool on baking sheet for a few minutes before transferring cookies to a wire rack. When cool, store in airtight container.

ALMOND BOARD OF CALIFORNIA/ NEWS CANADA/ ADAPTED FOR METRO NEWS BY EMILY RICHARDS(PROFESSIONAL HOME ECONOMIST, COOKBOOK AUTHOR AND A TV CELEBRITY CHEF. FOR MORE, VISIT EMILYRICHARDSCOOKS.CA)

Ingredients:

- 1 cup (500 mL) creamy almond butter
- 1/2 cup (250 mL) butter, softened
- 1 cup (500 mL) packed brown sugar
- 1 egg
- 1/2 tsp (2 mL) pure almond extract
- 1 1/2 cups (375 mL) all purpose flour
- 1/2 tsp (2 mL) baking soda
- 1/4 tsp (1 mL) salt
- 1/2 cup (250 mL) diced roasted almonds

Drink of the week

Chocolate Doughnut Hot Chocolate

- 500 ml (2 cups) whole milk
- 1 glazed or sugar coated chocolate doughnut
- 125 ml (1/2 cup) semisweet chocolate chips
- Pinch salt

In a blender, combine milk and doughnut. Puree until very smooth.

Transfer mix to saucepan. Whisking constantly, heat over medium until it thickens, 3 mins. Add chocolate chips and salt, whisking until chocolate has melted and cocoa is smooth. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS/ J.M. HIRSC

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Make giving back sound even better

You volunteered — good for you! But what exactly did you do? Make that experience count on your resumé

GREG OVERHOLT
TALENTEGG.CA

In the Volunteer Experience section of your resumé, do your bullet points look like any of these?

- Promoted and raised awareness for events
- Attended and assisted in events such as campus fair
- Assured information around campus is up-to-date
- Worked closely and communicated often with the President and VP Sales and Marketing
- Kept finances up-to-date

These are a sample of some bullet points taken from applicant resumés that I've reviewed recently.

Read any one of them and ask yourself: "What did he or she actually do in this position?"

What information should you include?

As the employer, I want to see specific examples in regards to what you did and how you did it, as well as the results that were generated by these actions, rather than somewhat vague or generic descriptions of your role.

"Measuring your outcomes, getting evaluations, quantifying success and setting goals are all aspects that you must consider as you begin to volunteer."
GREG OVERHOLT

An employer will not read your resumé as thoroughly as you would like, so it's important to make sure that every bullet point is worth its space. Oftentimes, instead of giving a clear and concise overview of their contributions to the organization, applicants will include unnecessary or ambiguous information about their tasks.

To only write that you "promoted and raised awareness for events" is not enough — the key element is explaining how you did this. Did you put up flyers? Posters? A neat guerilla campaign using social media? And what was the result of the events? How many people came out? A bullet point without this type of information provides unsubstantial information and therefore doesn't give an employer many positive things to attribute to your work.

The resumé sentence

In resumé language, sentences should be formed answering "What you (actually) did" and great ones include "The result of my action was…"

To communicate your volunteer experiences better, you should re-word the first aforementioned bullet point as such:

"Promoted our speaker series by administering daily booths and creating campus-wide marketing materials, which generated an additional 50 attendees."

Ahhh… now I know what you did, and it seems as though your marketing efforts were successful (and I am impressed that you measured your impact afterward!).

How do you measure your awesomeness?

So you are volunteering, working your tail off on campus or with an off-campus organization during the year — keep it up! We need more students to continue giving back to their communities. However, while volunteering is valuable to the organization/club and the members it serves, it should also provide you with opportunities for self-development. You should also be proud to talk about your experiences on a resumé, as well as during interviews.

It can be hard to create well-constructed remarks about the results of your work, often because while we are eager to help and volunteer, we don't take a few minutes to think about measuring our work, success or outcomes while (or ideally before) we volunteer.

ISTOCK

▶ There will certainly be a spotlight on you if you know how to convey the importance of your volunteer work properly.

Measuring your outcomes, getting evaluations, quantifying success and setting goals are all aspects that you must consider as you begin to volunteer (or work) so that you can understand and communicate your goals and accomplishments.

If you are a marketing person, conduct a post-event survey by asking participants where or how they heard about the event. This will give you the necessary feedback and evidence to prove that you were successful (50 students came because of you) or give you valuable insight into what you should or shouldn't do next time (important learnings or key take-aways from your experiences that can be applied to this job are also great for interviews, even if the result wasn't great).

When you are looking for a place to build your experience, make sure you know what your role entails and that you are able to set goals and measure outcomes. This will enable you to not only help drive the organization's mandate, but to develop your own skills and experiences in meaningful ways.

GREG OVERHOLT IS THE FOUNDER AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE NATIONAL STUDENT-LED CHARITABLE SOCIAL VENTURE SOS: STUDENTS OFFERING SUPPORT (STUDENTSOFFERINGSUPPORT.CA).

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Be specific!

If you are in a volunteer role that includes fundraising, set goals for financial tracking so that you can report back at the end. Employers will read statements such as:

- Managed the collection and depositing of $2,000 generated through fundraisers throughout the year
- Kept club finances up-to-date using Excel spreadsheets, tracking all revenues and expenses to generate a detailed income statement at year's end.

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So can I throw out my CV?

Author Darrell W. Gurney explores the ways in which relationships weigh heavier than resumés in the job hunt

BRUCE WALSH
LIFE@METRONEWS.CA
MWN IN PHILADELPHIA

After 15 years of executive recruiting, in 2000 Darrell W. Gurney reinvented himself as self-help author The Career Guy.

To use the parlance of the industry, it was a successful rebranding.

In his first book, Headhunters Revealed, Gurney wanted to share the strategies of corporate placement agencies with a larger audience.

"I feel all of us have one main job on the planet, which is to find what we're really turned on by," explains Gurney.

"For me, I decided I wanted to teach people how to fish, rather than just give them a fish as a recruiter."

His latest effort, Never Apply for a Job Again! Break the Rules, Cut the Line, Beat the Rest, hits stores this week.

This time, The Career Guy is attempting to inspire his readers to end their social hibernation.

And, above all, he stresses the importance of informal networking.

"The minute your outreach to people is that you need a job from them, you will get nowhere," he explains.

"You want to pull people in because of your passion and enthusiasm, rather than [repel] them because of your desperate need."

"The minute your outreach to people is that you need a job from them, you will get nowhere. You want to pull people in because of your passion and enthusiasm, rather than [repel] them because of your desperate need."
DARRELL W. GURNEY

Gurney points out that very few job opportunities happen the way we typically anticipate them.

His advice: Stop spending so much time applying for jobs and start initiating conversations with professionals already around you.

"Through the 'front door' you're competing with thousands of applicants, and you're completely locked into your resumé.

You can't get beyond your past," Gurney says. "Through what I call 'the back door' — through relationships — it's the relationship that comes first, not your resumé."

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Slipping on your study promises?

There's a good chance you set the bar too high for yourself Take in these tips and start studying the smart way

BRUCE WALSH
LIFE@METRONEWS.CA
METRO WORLD NEWS

ISTOCK

Think about pulling one or two books out of that pile.

College and university students across the country are currently struggling with the first stages of that age-old new year's resolution: This year, I'm going to study for an impossible number of hours a day!

Lisa Jacobson is the founder of Inspirica, a company that has been teaching study habits for 25 years.

Her advice as the semester kicks off is simple: Don't try to drastically change yourself with one quick turn of the calendar page.

When it comes to studying, why do new year's resolutions fail?

They're too big. They say, "I'm going to read for three hours a night, every night." I really believe that, when it comes to college students, incremental changes are far more effective. It's trying to go just a step above where you were.

What's a good first step?

It's an easy one. Just take 15 minutes, sit down on your bed and quietly look at your dorm. Be honest with yourself. Is this a place where I can focus? Set yourself up. Go to the container store and make sure everything has a place.

Ask yourself, "When is the most quiet, peaceful time in this space?" Carve out just a half hour during that time of day to hit the books.

So, are new year's resolutions about studying a bad idea?

I think they can work if the goal is to get to a place where you're working smarter, not necessarily harder.

Resolutions can be helpful because you're teaching yourself life skills.

Sometimes parents request tutoring for their kids in college — and I advise that they hold off on taking control like that, because college is the time to learn how to advocate for yourself.

Do some students respond better to background noise as opposed to a quiet room?

Yes! Take notice of when you can concentrate, when you get distracted. Some people need lots of activity around them, so they need to find a busy time at a cafe and make sure they plop themselves down there for 30 minutes a day.

An office of opposites

A happy workplace is one of many faces from many different places

JULIA WEST
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MWN IN PHILADELPHIA

ISTOCK

Building a team with different backgrounds inherently produces one with a wider perspective.

It's well understood that a workplace of similarly minded drones makes for a static environment.

Also, it is required by law that companies be equal-opportunity employers.

But aside from the obvious and the legal, there are reasons that diversity — regardless of the form it takes — lends itself to building a stronger company.

Dr. James Smither, Professor of Management at La Salle University, defines diversity as "the differences among people in terms of their personalities, underlying values and training."

It is these aspects that make a powerful team.

"Deep diversity can be beneficial to the team as a whole because it creates a team with broader knowledge and perspectives that in turn can enhance the quality of problem-solving and decision-making," he says.

The benefits of a diverse workforce aren't limited to the office. "The advantages of diverse workplaces extend beyond America's borders," says Peter Aranda, CEO at The Consortium for Graduate Study in Management.

"The world is quickly becoming one giant multicultural marketplace in which U.S. companies vie for market share with competitors across the world.

If American businesses want to stay in the game, they must become much more attuned to the nuances and needs of disparate cultures than they've been in the past."

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4 sports

Sports in brief

1 The Indianapolis Colts have fired coach Jim Caldwell.

2 Tigers star Victor Martinez could miss the entire 2012 season after injuring his left knee during off-season conditioning.

3 Pittsburgh Penguins defenceman Kris Letang returned to practice Tuesday for the first time since suffering a concussion in late November.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ottawa wins this round

Anderson stops 37 shots as Sens edge rival Leafs, build lead in standings to 11 points

3	2
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FRANK GUNN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ Senators centre Jason Spezza and teammates celebrate his goal on Maple Leafs goaltender James Reimer.

Craig Anderson kept up his stellar play and the Ottawa Senators avoided their first two-game losing streak in two months.

The Senators goalie made 37 saves Tuesday to backstop his team to a 3-2 victory over the rival Toronto Maple Leafs.

Anderson has been virtually unbeatable in January, compiling a 7-1-1 record and .945 save percentage. As a result, the Senators have climbed to fifth in the Eastern Conference and now hold an 11-point advantage over the ninth-place Leafs with three games in hand.

Daniel Alfredsson, Jason Spezza and Kyle Turris scored for Ottawa (26-16-6), which hasn't dropped consecutive games in regulation since Nov. 9 and 11.

Matthew Lombardi and Joffrey Lupul replied for the Maple Leafs (22-18-5).

With both teams part of the tight playoff race for the first time in years, the Battle of Ontario appears to be approaching the intensity it used to be known for. The game featured two fights, including one between Leafs captain Dion Phaneuf and Nick Foligno in the second period that came six minutes after the Senators forward laid Phaneuf out with a low hit.

Toronto got off to the fast start it wanted against a Senators team playing for the second time in as many nights.

Lombardi beat Anderson with a shot through the legs at 6:50, giving him his first goal in a 17-game span dating back to Oct. 27. Lupul extended that advantage less than 10 minutes later after taking a lovely pass from Phil Kessel on a 2-on-1 rush.

Ottawa had been outplayed to that point, but Alfredsson gave them some life just before the intermission. The captain took a pass from Milan Michalek and backhanded a shot over James Reimer with 7.5 seconds left in the period.

The victory came at an important time in the schedule as Ottawa faces four more road games before hosting the all-star game later this month.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Jays sign Villanueva, Johnson, Francisco

The Toronto Blue Jays avoided arbitration with right-hander Carlos Villanueva, second baseman Kelly Johnson and outfielder Ben Francisco on Tuesday, signing all three to non-guaranteed one-year deals.

Johnson is scheduled to make $6.375 million US in 2012 while Villanueva agreed to a deal just under $2.3 million and Francisco is slated to get $1.537 million.

Toronto has two arbitration-eligible players remaining — pitchers Casey Janssen and Brandon Morrow. Second-year general manager Alex Anthopoulos said unless either or both players agree to a multi-year contract, the Jays and the player's representatives will indeed meet before an arbitrator, likely sometime next month.

"The one thing we both agree on is the players should get a raise and the players should make more than they made last year," he said during a conference call.

"I think we're all on the same page that we like the players and want to give them a raise.

"What we can't see eye-to-eye on is how much of a raise to give them so the third party has to get involved to tell us what the right amount is. We don't have a problem with that."

Then again, the Jays were scheduled to go to arbitration last year with slugger Jose Bautista and pitcher Jason Frasor, but settled on multi-year deals with both players prior to meeting with an arbitrator.

Bautista agreed to a five-year, $64-million US deal with a club option for a sixth year at $14 million while Frasor reached a one-year, $3.5-million agreement with a club option for 2012 worth $3.75 million.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Giant request

Giants ace Tim Lincecum has asked for $21.5 million US in salary arbitration and been offered $17 million.

- The two-time NL Cy Young Award winner's request Tuesday neared the record amount sought in arbitration. Houston pitcher Roger Clemens asked for $22 million in 2005.
- San Francisco's offer was the highest in arbitration history, topping the $14.25 million the New York Yankees proposed for shortstop Derek Jeter in 2001.

Australian Open in pictures

PHOTOS
1. CLIVE BRUNSKILL/GETTY IMAGES
2. MARK KOLBE/GETTY IMAGES
3. CAMERON SPENCER/GETTY IMAGES

1 Thornhill's Milos Raonic crushed Italian Filippo Volandri 6-4, 6-0, 6-2 on Tuesday and joined fellow Canadians Aleksandra Wozniak and Stephanie Dubois in the second round.

2 Li Na advanced to the third round with a 6-2, 6-2 win over Olivia Rogowska on Wednesday, her best run at a major since her breakthrough win at the French Open.

3 Novak Djokovic started his Australian Open defence with a 6-2, 6-0, 6-0 win over Paolo Lorenzi of Italy. Andy Murray, who lost last year's final to Djokovic, struggled early before beating American Ryan Harrison 4-6, 6-3, 6-4, 6-2.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

'I hate bugs more than you can imagine'

Insects, not injured ankle or late start, irk Serena

RYAN PIERSE/GETTY IMAGES

Serena Williams

If anything, it was the insects buzzing around Rod Laver Arena that bugged Serena Williams the most.

The injured left ankle held up fine in her opening match Tuesday at the Australian Open, and even the near-midnight start time was OK. But the bugs?

"I hate bugs more than you can imagine," Williams said after reaching the second round by beating Tamira Paszek 6-3, 6-2. "Like, they kept jumping on me. Yuck!"

The match started at 11:32 p.m., and Williams hit a service winner 1 hour, 19 minutes later to finish it off. In between points, though, she picked up and moved or shooed away bugs that landed on court, and two that landed on her back. A big one gave her a fright, making her hop as she tried to stifle a screech.

"I'm going to request not to play at night anymore because I hate bugs, except for the final. I heard it's at night," Williams said. "I'll try to get used to them."

Two years after she won her last Australian Open title, Williams extended her winning streak to 15 matches at Melbourne Park in the season's first major tournament. She won back-to-back titles in 2009 and 2010, but missed the chance to defend her title last year amid a prolonged injury layoff.

The late start was because Williams had to wait until the conclusion of a 4-hour men's night match won by Leyton Hewitt. And it was her first match since badly spraining her ankle two weeks ago at the Brisbane International, an injury that jeopardized her participation in Melbourne. Monday was the first time she was able to practice pain free, but she still had her lower left leg and ankles heavily taped.

"I don't let anything bother me," she said. "It's definitely different to have the ladies play so late, you know, so we'll see."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

*No purchase necessary. Contest closes January 31st, 2012. Open to residents of Canada who have reached the age of majority in the province or territory in which they reside as of the last day of the month prior to the date of entry. One (1) grand prize is available to be won with an approximate retail value twelve thousand two hundred and fifty dollars ($12,250 CDN), and five (5) prize packs are available to be won with an approximate retail value one hundred and eighty dollars ($180 CDN) each. Mathematical skill-testing question required. Odds of winning depend on total number of eligible entries received by the contest closing date. Winner and guest must be prepared to travel to Helsinki, Finland on May 3rd to May 6th, 2012.

NATIONAL HOCKEY LEAGUE

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	GP	W	L	OTL	SL	GF	GA	Pts	Home	Away	Last 10	Strk
d-NY Rangers	44	29	11	1	3	125	90	62	14-4-0-2	15-7-1-1	7-3-0-0	W1
d-Boston	43	29	13	0	1	156	88	59	16-7-0-1	13-6-0-0	6-4-0-0	L1
d-Florida	44	21	14	4	5	112	123	51	11-5-1-5	10-9-3-0	3-4-2-1	L2
Philadelphia	44	27	13	2	2	149	129	58	11-6-1-1	16-7-1-1	6-4-0-0	W1
Ottawa	48	26	16	4	2	149	150	58	14-9-0-1	12-7-4-1	8-1-1-0	W1
New Jersey	45	26	17	1	1	126	126	54	12-7-0-1	14-10-1-0	6-3-1-0	W3
Pittsburgh	45	24	17	2	2	136	117	52	12-8-2-0	12-9-0-2	4-6-0-0	W3
Washington	44	24	18	0	2	125	127	50	17-6-0-1	7-12-0-1	7-3-0-0	L1
Toronto	45	22	18	3	2	139	140	49	12-7-2-2	10-11-1-0	4-5-1-0	L3
Winnipeg	46	21	20	3	2	116	133	47	14-8-0-1	7-12-3-1	4-6-0-0	W1
Buffalo	45	19	21	3	2	112	134	43	11-9-3-2	8-12-0-0	2-6-1-1	L2
Montreal	45	17	20	2	6	116	123	42	8-9-2-4	9-12-0-1	4-5-0-1	W1
NY Islanders	44	17	21	4	2	106	134	40	10-11-3-0	7-10-1-2	6-4-0-0	W1
Tampa Bay	45	18	23	1	3	126	159	40	12-7-0-1	6-16-1-2	4-5-0-1	W1
Carolina	48	16	24	4	4	124	156	40	11-11-0-3	5-13-4-1	4-4-0-2	L2

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	GP	W	L	OTL	SL	GF	GA	Pts	Home	Away	Last 10	Strk
d-St. Louis	45	27	12	1	5	116	94	60	19-3-1-2	8-9-0-3	6-2-1-1	W2
d-Vancouver	46	28	15	0	3	149	114	59	12-6-0-2	16-9-0-1	6-3-0-1	L1
d-San Jose	42	25	12	3	2	123	99	55	14-7-2-0	11-5-1-2	6-2-1-1	L1
Chicago	46	27	13	3	3	150	133	60	17-5-1-3	10-8-2-0	4-4-2-0	W1
Detroit	45	29	15	1	0	146	103	59	18-2-1-0	11-13-0-0	8-2-0-0	W3
Nashville	46	26	16	3	1	125	123	56	14-7-2-1	12-9-1-0	8-2-0-0	L1
Los Angeles	46	22	15	4	5	102	103	53	13-10-0-3	9-5-4-2	5-1-2-2	L1
Minnesota	46	22	17	2	5	106	118	51	12-6-1-2	10-11-1-3	2-6-0-2	L3
Colorado	47	24	21	2	0	120	134	50	13-11-0-0	11-10-2-0	5-4-1-0	L1
Dallas	44	24	19	0	1	120	126	49	13-8-0-1	11-11-0-0	4-6-0-0	L2
Phoenix	46	21	18	3	4	120	119	49	9-8-2-1	12-10-1-3	3-3-2-2	W1
Calgary	46	21	20	3	2	111	131	47	13-6-1-1	8-14-2-1	4-5-1-0	L1
Edmonton	45	17	24	1	3	116	131	38	11-7-1-2	6-17-0-1	2-7-1-0	L1
Anaheim	44	15	22	3	4	113	138	37	10-12-1-0	5-10-2-4	6-3-1-0	W2
Columbus	45	13	27	1	4	110	149	31	8-12-1-2	5-15-0-2	4-5-0-1	W1

d — division leaders ranked 1-2-3 regardless of points; a team winning in overtime or shootout is credited with two points and a victory in the W column; the team losing in overtime or shootout receives one point which is registered in the OTL (overtime loss) or SL (shootout loss) column.

Last night's results
Ottawa 3 Toronto 2
New Jersey 5 Winnipeg 1
Columbus 4 Edmonton 2
N.Y. Islanders 3 Washington 0
N.Y. Rangers 3 Nashville 0
Philadelphia 5 Minnesota 1
Pittsburgh 2 Carolina 1 (SO)
Tampa Bay 5 Boston 3
Detroit at Dallas
Los Angeles at Vancouver
Calgary at San Jose

Monday's results
Winnipeg 2 Ottawa 0
Boston 3 Florida 2 (SO)
Detroit 5 Buffalo 0
Nashville 3 N.Y. Islanders 1
Phoenix 6 Colorado 1
St. Louis 1 Dallas 0

Tonight's games
All Times Eastern
Washington at Montreal, 7:30 p.m.
Buffalo at Chicago, 7:30 p.m.
Florida at Colorado, 9:30 p.m.
Phoenix at Anaheim, 10 p.m.

Tomorrow's games
Minnesota at Toronto, 7 p.m.
Boston at New Jersey, 7 p.m.
Pittsburgh at N.Y. Rangers, 7 p.m.
N.Y. Islanders at Philadelphia, 7 p.m.
Nashville at Columbus, 7 p.m.
Edmonton at St. Louis, 8 p.m.
Buffalo at Winnipeg, 8:30 p.m.
Detroit at Phoenix, 9 p.m.
Calgary at Los Angeles, 10:30 p.m.
Ottawa at San Jose, 10:30 p.m.

Friday's games
Montreal at Pittsburgh, 7 p.m.
Washington at Carolina, 7 p.m.
Florida at Chicago, 8:30 p.m.
Tampa Bay at Dallas, 8:30 p.m.

SENATORS 3, MAPLE LEAFS 2

First Period
1. Toronto, Lombardi 3 (Connolly, Franson) 6:51
2. Toronto, Lupul 20 (Kessel) 15:35
3. Ottawa, Alfredsson 15 (Michalek, Turris) 19:52

Penalties — Konopka Ott, Brown Tor (fighting) 4:28; Neil Ott (interference) 16:41.

Second Period
4. Ottawa, Spezza 20 (Daugavins, Kuba) 16:46

Penalties — Foligno Ott (clipping) 6:50; Foligno Ott (fighting), Phaneuf Tor (roughing, fighting) 13:16.

Third Period
5. Ottawa, Turris 3 (Alfredsson, Cowen) 1:24

Penalties — None.

Shots

Ottawa	6	9	6	21
Toronto	10	21	8	39

Goal — Ottawa: Anderson (W,24-13-4); Toronto: Reimer (L,7-5-4). **Power plays (goals-chances)** — Ottawa: 0-1; Toronto: 0-2.

Referees — Gord Dwyer, Stephen Walkom.

Linesmen — Scott Driscoll, Lonnie Cameron.

Attendance — 19,615 (18,819) at Toronto.

DEVILS 5, JETS 1

First Period
1. New Jersey, Kovalchuk 18 (Parise) 18:59

Penalty — Slater Wpg (interference) 5:48.

Second Period
2. New Jersey, Sykora 11 (Tallinder, Elias) 1:32
3. New Jersey, Clarkson 16 (Elias) 4:48
4. New Jersey, Kovalchuk 19 (Clarkson, Foster) 7:38 (pp)

Penalties — Kane Wpg (high-sticking) 5:34, Antropov Wpg (elbowing) 7:07, Oduya Wpg (slashing) 12:14.

Third Period
5. Winnipeg, Enstrom 3 (Antropov, Wellwood) 8:18
6. New Jersey, Elias 17 (Volchenkov, Sykora) 11:31

Penalty — Zubrus NJ (tripping) 13:08.

Shots

Winnipeg	6	7	8	21
New Jersey	9	7	4	20

Goal (shots-saves) — Winnipeg: Mason (L,6-4-0)(15-11), Pavelec (8:46 second)(5-4); New Jersey: Brodeur (W,14-10-1). **Power plays (goals-chances)** — Winnipeg: 0-1; New Jersey: 1-4.

Referees — Ian Walsh, Paul Devorski. **Linesmen** — Brian Murphy, Derek Nansen.

Attendance — 14,129 (17,625) at Newark, N.J.

BLUE JACKETS 4, OILERS 2

First Period
1. Edmonton, Lander 2 (Green, Jones) 7:01
2. Edmonton, Eager 5 (Petry, Hemsky) 8:50

Penalty — Dorsett Clb (unsportsmanlike conduct) 19:39.

Second Period
3. Columbus, Johansen 8 (Vermette, Kubalik) 2:37
4. Columbus, Brassard 7 (Nash, Nikitin) 19:59 (pp)

Penalties — Johansen Clb (tripping) 8:36, Peckham Edm (roughing) 19:01.

Third Period
5. Columbus, MacKenzie 5 (Gillies) 0:32
6. Columbus, Dorsett 8, 19:38 (en-pp)

Penalties — Kubalik Clb (boarding) 9:00, Edmonton bench (too many men; served by O'Marra) 19:02.

Shots

Edmonton	9	6	8	23
Columbus	6	8	11	25

Goal — Edmonton: Dubnyk (L,6-11-0); Columbus: Sanford (W,8-10-3). **Power plays (goals-chances)** — Edmonton: 0-3; Columbus: 2-2.

Referees — Dennis LaRue, Greg Kimmerly.

Linesmen — Derek Amell, Ryan Galloway.

Att. — 13,814 (18,144) at Columbus, Ohio.

SOCCER

ENGLAND

FA CUP
THIRD ROUND — REPLAY
Yesterday's results
Bolton 2 Macclesfield 0
Leicester 4 Nottingham Forest 0
Millwall 5 Dagenham & Redbridge 0
Queens Park Rangers 1 Milton Keyes Dons 0

SCOTLAND

SCOTTISH CUP
FOURTH ROUND — REPLAY
Yesterday's results
Hamilton 0 St. Mirren 1
Kilmarnock 2 Dundee 1

SPAIN

COPA DEL REY
QUARTER-FINALS — FIRST LEG
Yesterday's result
Espanyol 3 Mirandes 2

NFL

PLAYOFFS

CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIPS
Sunday's games
All Times Eastern
Baltimore (13-4) at New England (14-3), 3 p.m.
N.Y. Giants (11-7) at San Francisco (14-3), 6:30 p.m.

NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
d-Chicago	13	3	.813	—
d-Philadelphia	10	3	.769	1½
d-Orlando	10	3	.769	1½
Indiana	9	3	.750	2
Atlanta	10	4	.714	2
Miami	9	4	.692	2½
New York	6	7	.462	5½
Cleveland	6	7	.462	5½
Boston	4	8	.333	7
Milwaukee	4	9	.308	7½
Toronto	4	10	.286	8
Detroit	3	11	.214	9
New Jersey	3	11	.214	9
Charlotte	3	12	.200	9½
Washington	1	12	.077	10½

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
d-Oklahoma City	12	2	.857	—
d-L.A. Clippers	7	3	.700	3
L.A. Lakers	10	5	.667	2½
d-San Antonio	9	5	.643	3
Utah	8	4	.667	3
Denver	9	5	.643	3
Portland	8	5	.615	3½
Dallas	8	6	.571	4
Memphis	6	6	.500	5
Houston	7	7	.500	5
Minnesota	5	8	.385	6½
Golden State	5	8	.385	6½
Phoenix	4	9	.308	7½
Sacramento	4	10	.286	8
New Orleans	3	10	.231	8½

d-division leaders ranked in top four positions.

Last night's results
Golden State 105 Cleveland 95
Orlando 96 Charlotte 89
Miami 120 San Antonio 98
Chicago 118 Phoenix 97
Houston 97 Detroit 80
Denver 105 Milwaukee 95
L.A. Clippers at Utah

Mopnday's results
Memphis 102 Chicago 86
Orlando 102 New York 93
Cleveland 102 Charlotte 94
Houston 114 Washington 106
Philadelphia 94 Milwaukee 82
Portland 84 New Orleans 77
L.A. Clippers 101 New Jersey 91
Atlanta 93 Toronto 84
Minnesota 99 Sacramento 86
Oklahoma City 97 Boston 88
L.A. Lakers 73 Dallas 70

Tonight's games
All Times Eastern
San Antonio at Orlando, 7 p.m.
Oklahoma City at Washington, 7 p.m.
Denver at Philadelphia, 7 p.m.
Toronto at Boston, 7:30 p.m.
Golden State at New Jersey, 7:30 p.m.
Phoenix at New York, 7:30 p.m.
Memphis at New Orleans, 8 p.m.
Detroit at Minnesota, 8 p.m.
Portland at Atlanta, 8 p.m.
Indiana at Sacramento, 10 p.m.
Dallas at L.A. Clippers, 10:30 p.m.

Tomorrow's games
New Orleans at Houston, 8 p.m.
L.A. Lakers at Miami, 8 p.m.
Dallas at Utah, 10:30 p.m.

TENNIS

AUSTRALIAN OPEN
At Melbourne, Australia

MEN
Singles — First Round
Novak Djokovic (1), Serbia, def. Paolo Lorenzi, Italy, 6-2, 6-0, 6-0.
Andy Murray (4), Britain, def. Ryan Harrison, U.S., 4-6, 6-3, 6-4, 6-2.
David Ferrer (5), Spain, def. Rui Machado, Portugal, 6-1, 6-4, 6-2.
Jo-Wilfried Tsonga (6), France, def. Denis Istomin, Uzbekistan, 6-4, 3-6, 6-2, 7-5.
Janko Tipsarevic (9), Serbia, def. Dmitry Tursunov, Russia, 5-7, 7-6 (12), 6-3, 6-4.
Gilles Simon (12), France, def. Danai Udomchoke, Thailand, 6-1, 3-6, 6-7 (5), 6-3, 6-2.
Gael Monfils (14), France, def. Marinko Matosevic, Australia, 7-6 (5), 6-3, 6-3.
Andy Roddick (15), U.S., def. Robin Haase, Netherlands, 6-3, 6-4, 6-1.
Richard Gasquet (17), France, def. Andreas Seppi, Italy, 6-3, 3-6, 6-3, 6-1.
Viktor Troicki (19), Serbia, def. Juan Carlos Ferrero, Spain, 4-6, 6-7 (3), 6-2, 7-6 (3), 6-2.
Milos Raonic (23), Thornhill, Ont., def. Filippo Volandri, Italy, 6-4, 6-0, 6-2.
Kei Nishikori (24), Japan, def. Stephane Robert, France, 6-1, 7-6 (7), 6-0.
Marcel Granollers (26), Spain, def. Jesse Levine, U.S., 6-0, 7-6 (4), 5-7, 5-7, 6-3.
Juan Ignacio Chela (27), Argentina, def. Michael Russell, U.S., 7-6 (3), 6-3, 6-4.
Nicolas Mahut, France, def. Radek Stepanek (29), Czech Republic, 7-5, 7-5, 6-3.
Alex Bogomolov Jr. (32), Russia, def. Daniel Gimeno-Traver, Spain, 6-3, 6-2, 6-4.
Philipp Petzschner, Germany, def. Lukas Rosol, Czech Republic, 6-0, 6-0, 6-2.
Santiago Giraldo, Colombia, def. Matteo Viola, Italy, 6-4, 6-2, 6-1.
Edouard Roger-Vasselin, France, def. Xavier Malisse, Belgium, 7-6 (6) (retired).
James Duckworth, Australia, def. Jurgen Zopp, Estonia, 6-3, 6-4, 6-4.
Michael Llodra, France, def. Ernests Gulbis, Latvia, 2-6, 6-1, 6-2, 6-2.
Tatsuma Ito, Japan, def. Potito Starace, Italy, 6-3, 4-6, 6-3, 6-4.
Ryan Sweeting, U.S., def. Matthias Bachinger, Germany, 6-4, 6-4, 6-2.
Andrey Golubev, Kazakhstan, def. Mikhail Youzhny, Russia, 7-5, 6-7 (4), 6-4, 4-6, 6-3.
Pablo Andujar, Spain, def. Igor Kunitsyn, Russia, 6-1, 7-6 (12), 6-0.
Ricardo Mello, Brazil, def. Roberto Bautista-Agut, Spain, 6-4, 6-4, 7-5.
Thomaz Bellucci, Brazil, def. Dudi Sela, Israel, 7-6 (5), 6-4, 6-3.
Matthew Ebden, Australia, def. Joao Souza, Brazil, 6-3, 7-6 (1), 6-2.
Frederico Gil, Portugal, def. Ivan Dodig, Croatia, 2-6, 6-1, 6-1, 4-1 (retired).
Mikhail Kukushkin, Kazakhstan, def. Guillermo Garcia-Lopez, Spain, 6-4, 6-3, 6-0.
Julien Benneteau, France, def. Karol Beck, Slovakia, 6-4, 6-2, 7-5.
Lleyton Hewitt, Australia, def. Cedrik-Marcel Stebe, Germany, 7-5, 6-4, 3-6, 7-5.

WOMEN
Singles — First Round
Petra Kvitova (2), Czech Republic, def. Vera Dushevina, Russia, 6-2, 6-0.
Maria Sharapova (4), Russia, def. Gisela Dulko, Argentina, 6-1, 6-0.
Sorana Cirstea, Romania, def. Sam Stosur (6), Australia, 7-6 (2), 6-3.
Vera Zvonareva (7), Russia, def. Alexandra Dulgheru, Romania, 7-6 (4), 6-7 (5), 6-3.
Marion Bartoli (9), France, def. Virginie Razzano, France, 7-5, 6-0.
Serena Williams (12), U.S., def. Tamira Paszek, Austria, 6-3, 6-2.
Sabine Lisicki (14), Germany, def. Stefanie Voegele, Switzerland, 6-2, 4-6, 6-4.
Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova (15), Russia, def. Klara Zakopalova, Czech Republic, 7-6 (5), 6-1.
Dominika Cibulkova (17), Slovakia, def. Magdalena Rybarikova, Slovakia, 6-3, 6-1.
Svetlana Kuznetsova (18), Russia, def. Chanelle Scheepers, South Africa, 6-3, 3-6, 6-0.
Ana Ivanovic (21), Serbia, def. Lourdes Dominguez Lino, Spain, 6-0, 6-3.
Roberta Vinci (23), Italy, def. Alexandra Cadantu, Romania, 6-0, 6-1.
Kaia Kanepi (25), Estonia, def. Johanna Larsson, Sweden, 6-2, 6-4.
Maria Kirilenko (27), Russia, def. Jarmila Gajdosova, Australia, 6-4, 6-2.
Nadia Petrova (29), Russia, def. Andrea Hlavackova, Czech Republic, 6-3, 3-6, 6-0.
Angelique Kerber (30), Germany, def. Bojana Bobusic, Australia, 6-1, 6-3.
Stephanie Dubois, Laval, Que., def. Elena Vesnina, Russia, 6-4, 1-6, 6-4.
Aleksandra Wozniak, Blainville, Que., def. Zhang Shuai, China, 6-3, 6-3.
Greta Arn, Hungary, def. **Rebecca Marino, Vancouver**, 6-4, 6-2.
Shahar Peer, Israel, def. Isabella Holland, Australia, 6-2, 6-0.
Lucie Hradecka, Czech Republic, def. Evgeniya Rodina, Russia, 6-3, 6-1.
Vania King, U.S., def. Kateryna Bondarenko, Ukraine, 7-6 (3), 6-3.
Carla Suarez Navarro, Spain, def. Irina-Camelia Begu, Romania, 6-1, 7-5.
Jelena Dokic, Australia, def. Anna Chakvetadze, Russia, 6-2, 6-1.
Jamie Hampton, U.S., def. Mandy Minella, Luxembourg, 6-1, 6-1.
Sloane Stephens, U.S., def. Silvia Soler-Espinosa, Spain, 6-4, 6-2.
Sara Errani, Italy, def. Valeria Savinykh, Russia, 6-2, 6-1.
Michaella Krajicek, Netherlands, def. Kristina Barrois, Germany, 6-3 7-6 (13).
Ekaterina Makarova, Russia, def. Tamarine Tanasugarn, Thailand, 6-0, 2-6, 6-0.
Urszula Radwanska, Poland, def. Alison Riske, U.S., 6-4, 1-6, 6-2.
Barbora Zahlavova Strycova, Czech Republic, def. Iryna Bremond, France, 6-0, 6-4.
Zheng Jie, China, def. Madison Keys, U.S., 6-2, 6-1.

BASKETBALL

NCAA MEN'S TOP 25

Last night's results
No. 2 Kentucky vs. Arkansas
No. 9 Michigan State at **No. 20** Michigan
No. 10 Georgetown at DePaul

Monday's results
No. 1 Syracuse 71 Pittsburgh 63
No. 7 Kansas 92 **No. 3** Baylor 74
No. 5 Missouri 70 Texas A&M 51
No. 21 Marquette 74 **No. 23** Louisville 63

LACROSSE

NLL

EAST DIVISION

	GP	W	L	Pct.	GF	GA	GB
Rochester	1	1	0	1.000	22	12	—
Buffalo	1	1	0	1.000	14	10	—
Philadelphia	1	0	1	.000	12	22	1
Toronto	2	0	2	.000	19	26	2

WEST DIVISION

	GP	W	L	Pct.	GF	GA	GB
Calgary	2	2	0	1.000	25	19	—
Colorado	1	1	0	1.000	20	14	½
Edmonton	0	0	0	.000	0	0	1
Minnesota	1	0	1	.000	14	20	1½
Washington	1	0	1	.000	10	13	1½

WEEK THREE
All Times Eastern
Friday's game
Colorado at Edmonton, 9 p.m.
Saturday's games
Washington at Philadelphia, 7 p.m.
Buffalo at Rochester, 7:30 p.m.
Colorado at Calgary, 9 p.m.

Extra help, when needed

Unlike full-hybrid systems that can operate in electric mode only or in tandem with a gasoline engine counterpart, the eAssist's electric motor/generator, which takes the place of a traditional belt-driven alternator, kicks in when extra thrust is needed.

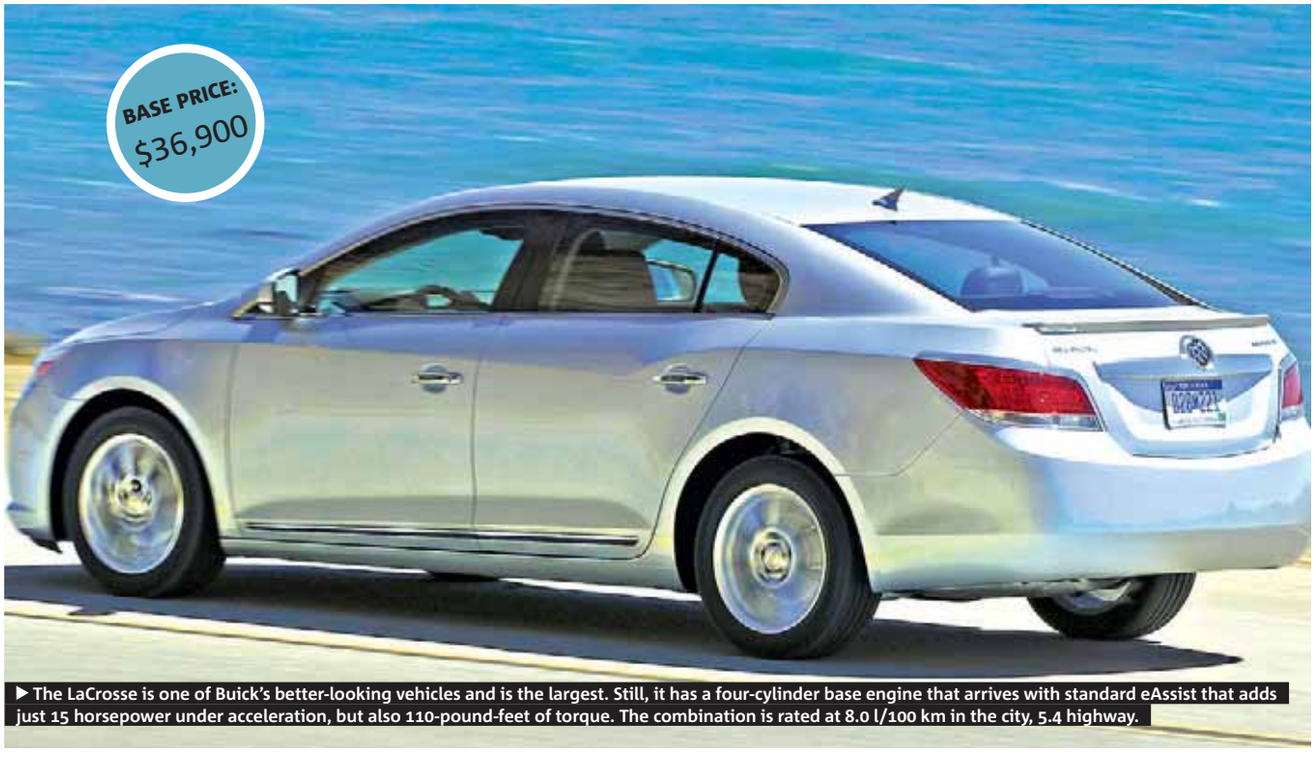
The only time the duo isn't in operation occurs when coasting downhill, while stopped at a light or in the throes of full-on traffic gridlock. Then, the gasoline engine shuts down to conserve fuel, leaving the electric side to run all the necessary accessories, such as the air conditioning.

When the light turns green or the way is clear, the engine fires up once the brake pedal is released.

Power outputs

The eAssist electric motor-generator, now standard on all LaCrosse models, replaces the traditional alternator and draws on a lithium-ion battery pack to boost the 182-horsepower (and 172 pound-feet of torque) 2.4-litre gasoline engine by an additional 15 horsepower and 110 pound-feet or torque.

It also generates an additional 15 kilowatts of power by recovering the energy produced from braking and converting it into electrical energy to help recharge the batteries.



▶ The LaCrosse is one of Buick's better-looking vehicles and is the largest. Still, it has a four-cylinder base engine that arrives with standard eAssist that adds just 15 horsepower under acceleration, but also 110-pound-feet of torque. The combination is rated at 8.0 l/100 km in the city, 5.4 highway.

Bigger doesn't always mean better for Buick

MALCOLM GUNN
DRIVE@METRONEWS.CA
WHEELBASE MEDIA

For traditional Buick lovers, their world must seem a truly bewildering place.

Buyers of the brand's big floaty sedans used to shop for Park Avenues, LeSabres and, until recently, Lucernes.

But that large barge has now sailed, taking with it the last vestiges of what once made Buick the final word in upper-mid-range opulence.

General Motors has retooled its formerly moribund Buick brand and infused it with some particularly tasty small-scale products that offer style and fuel economy, while placing trailer-towing capacity in the forget-about-it bucket.

Other than the popular Enclave wagon, the largest vehicle in the fleet is now the LaCrosse, a model that received a complete makeover for the 2010 model year and is currently one of the classiest looking four-doors around.

But following two years in service, there are major changes in store for this model, as well as its Regal relation, that promise to make both models significantly more fuel efficient.

The upgrade is called eAssist, a name that describes what GM calls its "light electrification" technology, but in other circles is best described as a mild hybrid.

▶ A dash-mounted display advises the driver when the battery is charging and when the electric motor is in play.

▶ An electric motor takes the place of the alternator and applies an extra 15 horsepower via a ribbed belt. The 115-volt lithium-ion power pack within the silver box weighs about as a much as a typical 12-volt automotive battery.

Buick LaCrosse

What you should know about the 2012 Buick LaCrosse:

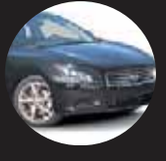
- **Types:** Four-door, front-/all-wheel-drive sedan.
- **Engine (hp):** 2.4-litre DOHC I4 (182) with electric motor (15); 3.6-litre DOHC V-6 (303).
- **Transmission:** Six-speed automatic.
- **Market position:** The LaCrosse represents a compromise in hybrid vehicles as it doesn't operate exclusively on battery power. However its impressive fuel economy combines with plenty of luxury features at a reasonable price.
- **Mileage:** L/100 km (city/hwy) 8.0/5.4 (2.4).

5 drive

By comparison

Lincoln MKZ
Base price: $40,000
Stylish Ford Fusion-based model offers all-wheel-drive and hybrid versions.

Nissan Maxima
Base price: $39,500
Great looks and sporty demeanor complement its impressive V-6 power.



Toyota Avalon
Base price: $42,700
Camry-based sedan is geared to older drivers looking for a softer ride.

WHEELBASE MEDIA

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PHOTOS COURTESY OF WHEELBASE

▶ Panther sightings in the Everglades are rare. But they do happen.

The Keys to road-trip fun

A little game of finding the perfect car turns over a few, ahem, hidden gems

GARRY SOWERBY
DRIVE@METRONEWS.CA
WHEELBASE MEDIA

The southern Florida road trip between Naples and Key West will give us a good look at the Gulf Coast and the Everglades along with a chance to drive the 250-kilometre stretch of Highway 1 between the two places.

I know the Keys highway can be a slow drive, so I thought a road game might be in order. Nothing like a challenge or game to fill time getting down the highway. Standards like road-sign bingo, keeping score of car makes or counting the number of different animals might seem silly, but they do have a time and place on the road.

"I've decided to find 10 favourite Cars of the Keys ... Keys Cars," I say. My wife Lisa pays a cursory glance.

"I'll find 10 candidates then force myself to choose an overall favourite." This is going to drive Lisa nuts. She claims I make a game out of everything.

"1962 IMPERIAL!" I scare the daylights out of her barely three blocks from our hotel in Naples.

Chrysler's premium luxo-wagon has always been a favourite. With its spacey pod headlights and gun-sight taillights sitting atop a fine set of tail fins, folks in my hometown thought people who drove Imperials were captains of industry.

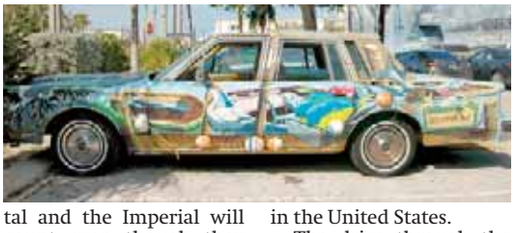
▶ Could this one be the winner of Garry's self-imposed contest? A mid-1980s Lincoln Continental "Land Yacht."

Two blocks later, I wheel our rental car into a service station and park beside a powder-blue 1967 Lincoln Continental convertible. Jackpot.

"It has a 462-cubic-inch engine. That's 7.6 litres, baby. They didn't bring out the 460 V-8 until 1968. That one doesn't have side marker lights, so it has to be a '67."

Lisa says I have a glazed-over clothes-shopping look.

Driving south out of Naples on Highway 41, I rationalize the Continental and the Imperial will count even though they surfaced before we reached the Keys.



The road veers east into the Florida Everglades. No roadside relics for my list but Panther Crossing signs, alligators lurking in the ditches and the Skunk-Ape Research Headquarters keep us entertained.

Eventually we turn south and pick up US Hwy 1 toward Key West, which is the most southern town in the United States.

The drive through the Keys is not a fast one. I've driven it a few times and always think it's the longest 250 kilometres on the planet.

No matter. Where else can you drive for hours across a series of islands trickling off the bottom of a country?

The road is heavily patrolled by radar-toting police so I putter along taking in the scenery keeping an eye open for more relics. "1965 Econoline pick-up!" I yell, pulling off the highway. "I always wanted one of these."

The first-generation Ford Econoline with the engine between and behind the front seats was a big seller when they hit the market in 1961.

We finally arrive in Key West and I check out a ratty-looking '64 Chevy Nova and a dilapidated VW convertible loaded with wharfing materials.

Key West is bustling with tourists. The ones who are not strolling the Duval Street strip or loitering in boozy Ernest Hemingway hangouts are buzzing about on scooters or silently sliding around in rented electric open-air buggies. Of course we rent one and comb the back streets looking for my quintessential Florida car.

A full-sized Dodge van gets my attention. It's big and bold in its flowery hand-painted livery and plywood minarets protruding from each side.

Then I spot it. I don't know if it's the corrugated steel roof or the marine themed paint job that has me about to declare a winner in my Keys game.

Or was it the sign painted across the back of the mid-1980s Lincoln Continental.

"Land Yacht."

OPTIMISM PREVAILS THIS AUTOSHOW SEASON

THE WHEEL DEAL

TODD BOURGON
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, TORONTO AUTOMOBILE DEALERS ASSOCIATION
TADA@METRONEWS.CA

While it may be an entire month away, automotive manufacturers have been preparing for February's Canadian International Autoshow in Toronto since shortly after it wrapped up last year.

Kicking off with the North American International Auto Show in Detroit, the 2012 autoshow season has brought an air of optimism not seen since before the dire days of 2008. North of the border, more Canadians treated themselves to a new vehicle in 2011 than the year prior, contributing to nearly two-per-cent growth in the industry.

CARLOS OSORIO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ An Audi R8 GT at the Detroit auto show.

The numbers bobbed up and down throughout the year but finished strong as sales in December grew 2.6 per cent over the last month of 2010 with the third consecutive monthly increase. According to DesRosiers Automotive Consultants, automakers sold 1.59 million vehicles in 2011, up from 1.56 million in 2010, proving that things are definitely moving in the right direction.

Once again residing at both the North and South buildings of the Metro Toronto Convention Centre, the CIAS will run from Feb. 17-26 and is aptly themed, The Next Dimension.

New models on display will offer fresh designs and exciting technological innovations that will define the future automotive landscape for years to come.

The Eco-Drive Showcase presented by CAA is a brand new feature for 2012, demonstrating clean fuel-efficient vehicles and technologies.

Not only will the show profile where we're going, but also where we've been with the Cruise Nationals exhibit and a display profiling the history of the Triumph Motor Car Company, with 40 rare and renowned models.

Always a fan favourite, the Auto Exotica exhibit will showcase the likes of Ferrari, Lamborghini, Lotus, Aston Martin, Bentley and Rolls Royce. They may be out of reach for all but a few but we can still dream, can't we?

Visit autoshow.ca for more details.

DAILY NEWS

2012

ALL-NEW 2012 CR-V

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SUMMER GETAWAY

SUNDAY DRIVE

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2012 CR-V TOURING
MODEL RM4H9CKN[S]

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2012 CR-V LX

MODEL RM3H3CE[S]

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*Limited time lease offers on a new 2012 Honda CR-V LX 2WD (Model RM3H3CE[S]) available through Honda Financial Services Inc., on approved credit. Representative lease example: based on a 2012 Honda CR-V LX 2WD (Model RM3H3CE[S]) on a 48 month term at 3.99% lease APR, the monthly payment is $297.76 (includes $1,590 freight and PDI, EHF tires ($29), EHF filters ($1), A/C tax ($100), and OMVIC fee ($6)) with $3,400 down payment or equivalent trade-in, $0 security deposit and first monthly payment due at lease inception. Total lease obligation is $17,692.48. 96,000-kilometre allowance; charge of $0.12/Km for excess kilometres. For all offers: license, insurance, PPSA, and other taxes (including HST and tax for fuel conservation, if applicable) are extra. Taxes payable on full amount of purchase price. Offers only valid for Ontario residents at Ontario Honda Dealers. Dealer may sell/lease for less. Dealer order/trade may be necessary. Vehicles and accessories are for illustration purposes only. Offers subject to change without notice. See your Ontario Honda Dealer or visit HondaOntario.com for full details. †9.2 city/6.6 hwy/8.1 combined L/100 KM. Fuel consumption for comparison purposes only and may vary with usage and accessories. See Dealer for latest EnerGuide results published by Natural Resources Canada (when available). ‡Multi-Angle Rearview Camera with Guidelines intended to provide assistance to the driver. Always exercise appropriate care while reversing. ΔCompatible with select smartphones. Your wireless carrier's rate plans apply. Only use texting feature when conditions allow you to do so safely.

YOUNG BUYERS FREAK OUT AUTOMAKERS

AUTO PILOT

MIKE GOETZ
DRIVE
@METRONEWS.CA

CONTRIBUTED

▶ Chevrolet recently introduced two concepts in Detroit — the Code 130R, left, and Tru 140S. They are aimed specifically at young people.

How do you sell cars to people who are only mildly interested in cars? I thought maybe with mild cars, mild advertising and mild salespeople. But apparently that's incorrect.

Truth be told, automakers are just learning how to appeal to the next big group of auto buyers — young people who love their digital world a lot more than the automotive world.

At this year's auto show in Detroit, Chevrolet introduced a couple of concepts aimed squarely at this "not really crazy about cars" generation.

But before it did, John McFarland, leader of GM's Global Youth Strategy, shared some research it unearthed about this new group of buyers.

For starters, it's a big group — in the U.S. alone, young consumers are 80 million strong, and represent 40 per cent of the potential car buying market.

The key word there is "potential."

Many are just not getting their licenses when they turn 16. For them, the signal that they've made it to adulthood is not getting behind the wheel, but getting behind a smartphone.

Also, their digital world provides social experiences that were previously only possible by leaving the driveway.

But all is not lost. While many are disinterested in purchasing a new car right away, many feel the other way. After talking to over 9,000 young customers, GM concluded that nearly 40 per cent ARE interested in cars; in the U.S. that translates to 32 million potential young customers.

All well and good, but even these car-interested types have very unique views on car brands. Basically most car brands aren't turning their crank.

This is in contrast to their passion and emotional connection to other tech brands, like Apple, Google, and Facebook, as well as to brands such as Nike and Target.

According to McFarland, auto brands fall in the middle of their brand-love rankings, "somewhere around disinterest and complacency."

And to punctuate the complacency, he offered this anecdote: He asked a young woman in California about her car. She was very complimentary about it. When he probed further, and asked if she actually loved the car, she said, "Well, the best way I can describe it, is it's kinda like an ugly boyfriend, you know? It's been good to me, but the second something better comes along ... it's out the door."

So car brands, like Chevrolet, who target this audience, have their work cut out for them. Lots of back and forth is needed, said McFarland.

Young buyers are particularly interested in a vehicle's connectivity.

According the Chevrolet, they're also interested in being involved in the design process. That's why the two concepts revealed in Detroit — the Tru 140S and Code 130R — have no interiors. GM has ideas for the interiors, and how to approach their connectivity and infotainment systems, but before it locks into a certain approach, it's inviting a whole bunch of young people to offer some input, through kiosks at auto shows, and bringing the vehicles to where young people hang out.

"Crowd sourcing," so to speak.

Oh yeah, almost forgot about the cars. Both are four-door sport coupes, because young folk like sports cars, but want to bring their friends along too. Both are also fuel efficient, with 1.4-litre turbo engines. The front-drive Tru 140S channels the "Italian exotic car" vibe, while the rear-drive Code 130R channels a "muscle car" vibe.

I like the red one, even though I'm not sure I'm allowed to ... not in the demographic apparently.

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• POWER DOOR LOCKS • ELECTRONIC STABILITY CONTROL (ESC)
• TRACTION CONTROL SYSTEM (TCS)
• HEATED POWER SIDE MIRRORS • 4-SPEAKER AM/FM/CD/MP3 STEREO
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60 Months Ammortized over 84 Months @ 4.49%

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PRE OWNED
PREVIOUS DAILY RENTAL
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• POWER WINDOWS & LOCKS • 3RD ROW SEAT
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OR

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On most new 2011 and 2012 models. 2011 F-150 5.0L & 3.7L amount shown.

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All offers include freight, air tax, PPSA and Stewardship Ontario Environmental Fee but exclude administration and registration fees of up to $799, fuel fill charge of up to $120 and all applicable taxes. Taxes are payable on the full amount of the purchase price. Bi-Weekly payments are only available using a customer initiated PC (Internet Banking) or Phone Pay system through the customer's own bank (if offered by that financial institution). The customer is required to sign a monthly payment contract and furnish a cheque in the amount of the first bi-weekly payment on the contract date. Subsequent bi-weekly payments will be made via a PC or Phone Pay system commencing 2 weeks following the contract date. †From Jan. 16, 2012 to Jan 30, 2012, receive 0% APR purchase financing on new [2011 Focus (excluding S), 2011 Fusion (excluding S), 2011 Mustang (excluding Value Leader, GT500 and Boss 302), 2011 Taurus (excluding SE), 2011 Edge (excluding SE), 2012 Flex (excluding SE), 2011 Ranger Super Cab (excluding XL), 2012 F-150 (excluding Raptor and Regular Cab XL 4x2 Value Leader), 2012 Fusion (excluding S), 2012 Escape (excluding I4 manual), 2011 Expedition, 2012 Edge (excluding SE), 2011 Explorer (excluding Base), 2012 Transit Connect (excluding Base), 2012 Flex SE, 2012 Explorer (excluding Base), 2012 Transit Connect (excluding electric), 2013 Explorer (excluding Base)/ 2011 Fiesta S, 2011 Flex SE/ 2012 Mustang Value Leader/ 2012 Fiesta (excluding S), 2011 Edge AWD, 2012 Fusion (excluding S), 2011 Edge AWD, 2012 Fusion (excluding Value Leader)/ 2012 Taurus (excluding SE), 2012 Escape I4 Automatic and Hybrid, 2012 Expedition, 2011 SuperDuty Chassis Cabs/2011 Flex (excluding SE), 2011 Escape I4 Automatic and Hybrid, 2011 and 2012 Mustang V6, 2011 and 2012 Mustang GT, 2012 Escape V6/ 2011 Taurus (excluding SE), 2012 SuperDuty Gas Engine (excluding Chassis Cabs)/2011 Ranger Super Cab (excluding XL), 2012 F-150 Regular Cab (excluding XL 4x2)/ 2011 Expedition, 2011 F-150 Regular Cab non 5.0L & 3.7L (excluding XL 4x2)/ 2012 F-150 Super Cab and Super Crew/ 2011 F-150 Super Cab and Super Crew Non 5.0L & 3.7L, 2012 SuperDuty Diesel Engine (excluding Chassis Cabs)/ 2011 F-150 Regular Cab 5.0L & 3.7L (excluding XL 4x2)/ 2011 F-150 Super Cab and Super Crew 5.0L & 3.7L (excluding XL 4x2 Value Leader), 2011 and 2012 F-250 to F-450 (excluding Chassis Cabs)/ [2011 F-150 (excluding Raptor and Regular Cab XL 4x2 Value Leader), 2012 Fusion (excluding S), 2012 Escape (excluding I4 manual), 2011 Expedition/] 2011 Fiesta (excluding S), 2012 Focus (excluding S), 2012 Mustang (excluding Value Leader, GT500 and Boss 302), 2012 Taurus (excluding SE), 2011 Edge (excluding SE), 2012 Flex (excluding SE), 2011 Ranger Super Cab (excluding XL), 2012 F-150 (excluding Raptor and Regular Cab XL 4x2 Value Leader), 2012 Fusion (excluding S), 2012 Escape (excluding I4 manual), 2011 Expedition, 2012 Edge (excluding SE), 2011 Explorer (excluding Base), 2012 Transit Connect (excluding Base), 2012 Flex SE, 2012 Explorer (excluding Base), 2012 Transit Connect (excluding electric), 2013 Explorer (excluding Base)/ 2011 Fiesta S, 2011 Flex SE/ 2012 Mustang Value Leader/ 2012 Fiesta (excluding S), 2011 Edge AWD, 2012 Fusion (excluding S), 2011 Edge AWD, 2012 Fusion (excluding Value Leader)/ 2012 Taurus (excluding SE), 2012 Escape I4 Automatic and Hybrid, 2012 Expedition, 2011 SuperDuty Chassis Cabs/2011 Flex (excluding SE), 2011 Escape I4 Automatic and Hybrid, 2011 and 2012 Mustang V6, 2011 and 2012 Mustang GT, 2012 Escape V6/ 2011 Taurus (excluding SE), 2012 SuperDuty Gas Engine (excluding Chassis Cabs)/2011 Ranger Super Cab (excluding XL), 2012 F-150 Regular Cab (excluding XL 4x2)/ 2012 F-150 Regular Cab non 5.0L & 3.7L (excluding XL 4x2)/ 2011 Expedition, 2011 F-150 Regular Cab 5.0L & 3.7L (excluding XL 4x2)/ 2011 F-150 Super Cab and Super Crew 5.0L & 3.7L/ 2011 SuperDuty Diesel Engine (excluding Chassis Cabs)/ 2011 F-150 Super Cab and Super Crew Non 5.0L & 3.7L, 2012 SuperDuty Diesel Engine (excluding Chassis Cabs)/ 2011 SuperDuty Gas Engine (excluding Chassis Cabs)/ 2011 F-150 Regular Cab 5.0L & 3.7L (excluding XL 4x2)/ 2011 F-150 Super Cab and Super Crew 5.0L & 3.7L (excluding XL 4x2 Value Leader), 2011 and 2012 F-250 to F-450 (excluding Chassis Cabs)/ [2011

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▶ The new Chevrolet Orlando shares its platform with the Chevrolet Cruze.

Many vehicles, but from one solid base

Gone are the days when one platform was for one vehicle

DRIVING FORCE

JIL McINTOSH
DRIVE@METRONEWS.CA

When you think about cars, they often mention vehicle "platforms." It actually refers to a number of aspects of auto construction, and includes design and engineering along with the actual metal.

"The platform is the underpinnings of the car," says Paul Hewitt, product manager, global Delta for General Motors of Canada.

"It's the floor pan and suspension of the vehicle."

In the past, most cars consisted of a heavy frame with the body bolted on top. This body-on-frame construction is still used for pickup trucks and some large SUVs, since it provides the brute strength needed for towing and hauling, but its heavy weight affects fuel economy.

Today, most vehicles are "unibody" construction, where the body itself provides the structural strength through its floor, roof, pillars and firewall.

'Flexible'

▶ Many automakers now use "flexible" manufacturing, with tools and procedures that allow them to build more than one type of vehicle in a plant and often on the same assembly line. Flexible manufacturing reduces costs and also allows the plant to quickly switch volumes to meet sales demand, or change over to build a new model.

By making alterations to the basic design — stretching the wheelbase, adjusting the suspension, or modifying the passenger cabin — automakers can use the same basic platform to produce several models, which may look nothing alike.

This reduces costs and also allows the companies to make more than one vehicle on the same assembly line.

"If your platforms are drastically different, you need very different tooling in the (auto plant) bodyshop to accommodate vehicles of different platforms," Hewitt says.

"The closer a vehicle is dimensionally in terms of wheelbase length and width, the easier it is for the manufacturers."

Like most automakers, General Motors uses each platform for several vehicles.

For example, the Chevrolet Orlando crossover uses the same basic underpinnings as the Cruze compact sedan and Volt electric car.

"They share a similar width," Hewitt says.

"The Orlando has a longer wheelbase to accommodate the third row, but it isn't just a Cruze with a different back end. Vehicles can be drastically different visually, but share some commonality in suspension and width."

Designing a new vehicle platform from scratch can take years of development and testing, Hewitt says.

"Then you start looking at the variants needed around the world. What we're seeing globally is that vehicles of all different body styles are being built off the same platform, which in economy of scale reduces the manufacturer's cost.

"You build one platform to cover a wide variety of vehicles. The days are gone where one platform was one car."

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9-5 boasted performance, mileage, refinement

SECOND GEAR

JUSTIN PRITCHARD
DRIVE@METRONEWS.CA

Available in wagon (SportCombi) and sedan configurations, the most recent Saab 9-5 benefitted from a loyal but niche owners community who bought the machine largely for its distinctive character, refinement and exclusivity.

This isn't a car you'll see every day. The latest complete generation of the Saab 9-5 was available to Canadian shoppers from model years 2006 to 2009.

Engine

All models were powered by a 2.3-litre four-cylinder engine with turbocharger, which generated 260 horsepower. Transmissions were all five-speed units in the driver's choice of manual or automatic.

What owners like

Many online 9-5 drivers have numerous positive things to say about their rides. Styling, mileage, refinement, ride quality, handling and spaciousness are all highly rated.

What owners dislike

Complaints centre around rattles as the vehicle ages, a lack of cupholders and a "cheap" feel to some of the vehicle — including the doors. Easily-marked plastic surfaces within the cabin are also noted.

Common issues

Pop the hood and check the condition of the 9-5's engine oil.

Numerous owners have reported engine failure as a result of oil sludge — a problem which could be amplified if the factory oil-change schedule wasn't adhered to.

Sputtering acceleration or lumpy power delivery at moderate or full throttle could be the result of a problem with an ignition system component.

Verdict

The 9-5 has a list of issues to be aware of — though many an owner say these are far outweighed by a great driving experience, generous performance and overall comfort. A dealer-serviced 9-5 with proof of frequent oil-changes and remaining warranty is your safest bet.

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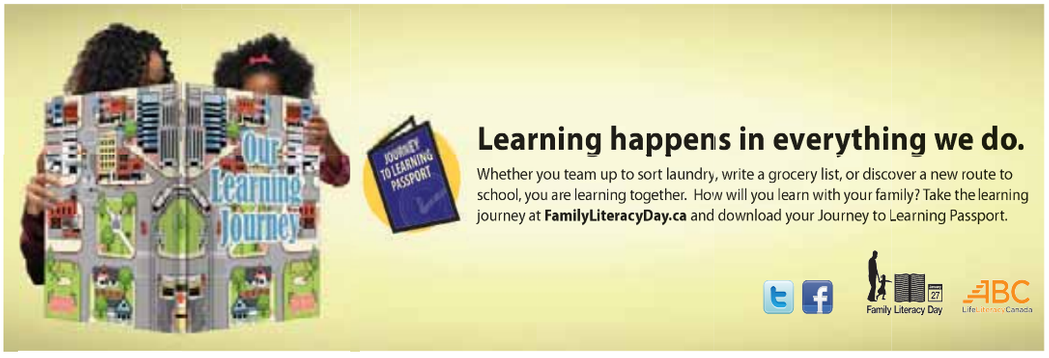

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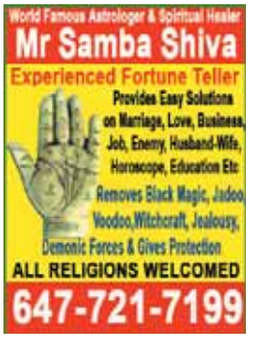

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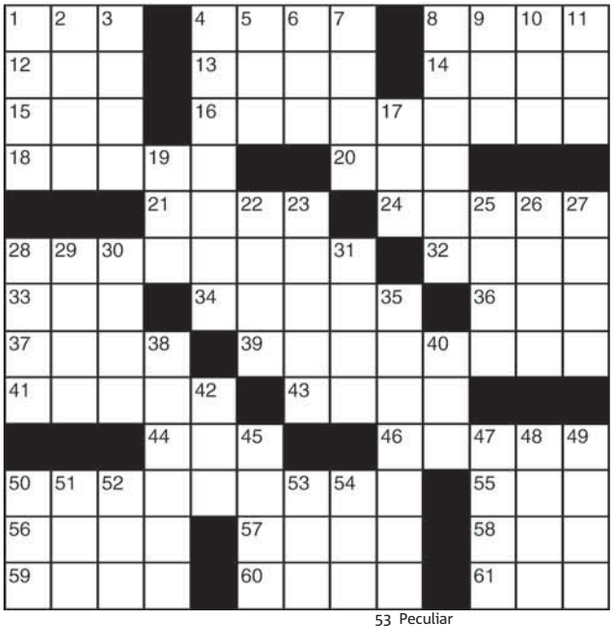

Across

1 $ dispenser
4 Two-way
8 Use a really old telephone
12 Payable
13 Therefore
14 A Great Lake
15 "CSI" evidence
16 Karate level
18 Popular condiment
20 That girl
21 — Stanley Gardner
24 Lightheaded
28 Winter road hazard
32 Pop
33 Help
34 Urban palls
36 Chum
37 Huff and puff
39 Shiner
41 Bewildered
43 Concept
44 Clear the tables
46 Hosiery material
50 Result of a star's collapse
55 Time of your life?
56 Peru's capital
57 Stench
58 Expert
59 Squad
60 Nervous
61 Corral

Down

1 Tosses in
2 Albacore, e.g.
3 Repast
4 Goes ashore
5 It starts with "http"
6 — Khan
7 Ness or Lomond
8 Scattered odds and ends
9 Anger
10 Have a bug
11 Allow
17 St. Bernard's load
19 Moment
22 Arm or leg
23 Meat contaminant
25 Ninny
26 Crucial time
27 Harvard's rival
28 Ali —
29 Springlike tune
30 Commotions
31 "Zounds!"
35 Landscapes
38 Online video equipment
40 Singer Starr
42 Diving bird
45 Old woman's home?
47 Reindeer herder, probably
48 Shrek, for one
49 Night light
50 Short-order sandwich
51 Whopper
52 "I — Camera"
53 Peculiar
54 Journal

▶ Yesterday's answer

A	B	E	T		M	A	G	I		P	T	A		
M	I	N	I		A	L	U	M		O	A	R		
P	O	S	T	H	A	S	T	E		S	K	I		
			L	I	M	O		A	C	T	E	D		
G	A	P	E	S			A	N	O	N				
R	O	O	D		S	E	M	I	N	A	R	S		
I	N	S		L	I	M	I	T		T	A	O		
D	E	T	R	I	T	U	S		D	A	F	T		
		M	U	L	E			M	E	L	T	S		
S	E	A	M	Y		A	E	O	N					
P	A	R		P	O	S	T	P	O	N	E	D		
A	S	K		A	R	I	A		T	I	R	E		
Y	E	S		D	E	A	L		E	L	A	N		

Sudoku

4				8				3
	2			9			5	
5			7		6			4
2		5				1		9
		8	3		5	4		
3		7				6		5
7			9		1			8
	5			7			4	
6				2				7

How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Yesterday's answer ▶

3	9	4	6	2	1	8	5	7
8	6	2	7	5	3	1	9	4
7	5	1	9	8	4	6	3	2
1	4	6	8	3	5	2	7	9
9	2	8	4	6	7	5	1	3
5	7	3	2	1	9	4	6	8
4	8	7	5	9	6	3	2	1
6	1	9	3	4	2	7	8	5
2	3	5	1	7	8	9	4	6

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Her
It's hard for me to see you crying because he left you. But it is more painful to see myself crying because I love you yet I can't say it to you.
RON

Daniela
Danii! Your the best! thanks fro beingggg theree for me always.. Love youuuuuuuuu so much!!! BFFF!
YOUR BEST FRIEND

mamabear
To my wonderful mother, It has been a wild 20 years. I'm so grateful to have you as my mother. Thanks for being there and being awesome. We can get through anything! We just have to fight it. Problems are just setbacks; speed bumps that slow us down :) I love you!!
DAUGHTERBEAR

*BigHead, u still make my heart go pitter patter. Some things never change. **
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Today's horoscope

For today's crossword answers and for expanded horoscopes, go to metronews.ca

♈ Aries March 21-April 20
You need to approach what you are working on in a more balanced way. Slow down a bit.

♉ Taurus April 21-May 21
With Mars on your side, you feel like you could take on the world and win. Maybe you can. Try it.

♊ Gemini May 22-June 21
The fact that you are the only one in your social group who takes a particular viewpoint does not mean you are wrong.

♋ Cancer June 22-July 22
You may have to act tough or in some other way apply pressure to get what you want.

♌ Leo July 23-Aug.23
Life is good and getting better, so why are you still focusing on things that went wrong while ignoring things that went right?

♍ Virgo Aug. 24- Sept. 22
Mars in your sign turns retrograde in a few days, so focus energy on actually getting things done.

♎ Libra Sept. 23-Oct. 23
You may be tempted to cut corners a bit today but if you do, you may regret it next week.

♏ Scorpio Oct. 24-Nov. 22
You've never been the sort to worry what others think, and you're not about to change.

♐ Sagittarius Nov. 23-Dec. 21
Tackle a task or objective that you might not feel you're able to master at most other times.

♑ Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 20
This is the perfect occasion to revisit something you failed at earlier. This time, you'll succeed.

♒ Aquarius Jan. 21-Feb. 18
Seems you're having trouble keeping a desire of some sort under wraps. Why would you want to?

♓ Pisces Feb. 19-March 20
Because Mars is moving through your opposite sign at the moment, it may feel as if the whole world is against you. **SALLY BROMPTON**

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PATRICK SEMANSKY/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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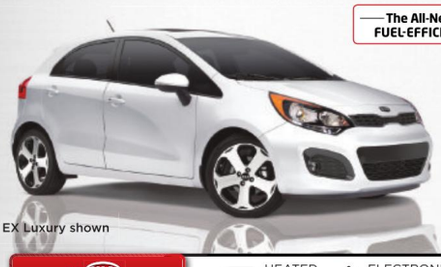
12-Day Tour
HIGHLIGHTS Bangkok, hilltribe trek, cycling tour of Chiang Mai, kayak the River Kwai and Kanchanaburi. Roundtrip Bangkok. Travel Feb 18/itp.
$1095 taxes & fees included
Conditions apply. Tour prices are per person, based on double occupancy for total length of stay unless otherwise stated. Prices are for select departure dates and are accurate and subject to availability at advertising deadline, errors and omissions excepted, and subject to change. Taxes & feesinclude transportation related fees, GST/HST and fuel supplements and are approximate and subject to change. itp=intrepid.

SALE ENDS JANUARY 31ST

THE KIA ADVANTAGE SALES EVENT

0% FINANCING ON ALL 2012's** | PAY UNTIL SPRING ON SELECT MODELS

The All-New FUEL-EFFICIENT



Rio5 EX Luxury shown

THE KIA ADVANTAGE — HEATED SIDE MIRRORS — ELECTRONIC STABILITY CONTROL

RIO 5-DOOR

HWY: 4.9L/100KM
CITY: 6.6L/100KM

OWN IT FROM **$108**†† FLEX CHOICE Finance with Option to Return

bi-weekly for 48 months. Offer includes delivery, destination and fees of $1,489.
BASED ON A PURCHASE PRICE OF $15,584.

$0 DOWN PAYMENT

AT **2.9%** APR

TOP SAFETY PICK 2012^ INSURANCE INSTITUTE FOR HIGHWAY SAFETY

Forte SX shown

THE KIA ADVANTAGE — HEATED SIDE MIRRORS — ELECTRONIC STABILITY CONTROL

FORTE SEDAN

HWY: 5.7L/100KM
CITY: 8.1L/100KM

OWN IT FROM **$94**†† FLEX CHOICE Finance with Option to Return

bi-weekly for 60 months. Offer includes delivery, destination and fees of $1,489.
BASED ON A PURCHASE PRICE OF $17,484.

$0 DOWN PAYMENT

AT **0%** APR

TOP SAFETY PICK 2011^ INSURANCE INSTITUTE FOR HIGHWAY SAFETY

AUTO123.COM 2012 "2012 Mid-Size Car of the Year"

Optima SX Turbo shown

THE KIA ADVANTAGE — HEATED FRONT SEATS — ELECTRONIC STABILITY CONTROL

THE ALL-NEW OPTIMA

HWY: 5.7L/100KM
CITY: 8.7L/100KM

CASH PURCHASE PRICE FROM **$22,084**‡

Includes delivery and destination, fees and $1,500 Cash Savings.
Optima Hybrid Best New Family Car (over $30,000)[1] & Optima LX Best New Family Car (under $30,000)[2]

ALSO AVAILABLE: OPTIMA HYBRID **$1,000 ECO-CREDIT**

PLUS UP TO **$1,250** Loyalty bonus¥ or Competitive bonus‡

KIA

KIA MEMBER REWARDS
Earn points towards future discounts. It's **FREE** and it's incredibly rewarding.

GTA KIA .ca

5 Year Warranty

WE'VE GOT YOU COVERED
*5-year/100,000 km worry-free comprehensive warranty

Proud Partner madd Saving Lives, Supporting Victims

WIN A ONCE-IN-A-LIFETIME TRIP TO UEFA EURO 2012™

FACEBOOK.COM/KIACANADA

UEFA EURO2012 POLAND-UKRAINE

Kia's new Customer Friendly Pricing includes delivery and destination fees and all mandatory government levies.
Prices do not include dealer administration fees ($399 to $699), licensing, PPSA or applicable taxes.

Visit kia.ca to learn more.

Offer(s) available on all new 2011 and 2012 models through participating dealers to qualified customers who take delivery by January 31, 2012. Dealers may sell for less. Some conditions apply. Retailer order/trade may be necessary. Offers are subject to change and may be extended without notice. See dealer for complete details. Vehicle images shown may include optional accessories and upgrades. All offers exclude licensing, registration, insurance, PPSA, applicable taxes and variable dealer administration fees (up to $699). **0% purchase financing is available on all 2011 and 2012 Kia models on approved credit (OAC). Terms vary by model and trim, see dealer for details. ♦ "Don't Pay Until Spring" on select models (90-day payment deferral) applies to purchase financing offers on select 2011 and 2012 models on approved credit (OAC) (Sportage/Sorento/Sedona/Borrego excluded). No interest will accrue during the first 60 days of the finance contract. After this period, interest starts to accrue and the purchaser will repay the principal interest monthly over the term of the contract. ††FlexChoice Financing for 36-, 48- and 60-month terms on approved credit through TD Financing Services is available at participating dealerships to qualified retail customers on select new 2011 and 2012 Kia vehicles. Taxes on the full negotiated purchase price are payable at the beginning of the contract term, resulting in higher payments than payments taxed on a periodic basis, and are not reflected in advertised payments. The following terms apply to TD Financing Services contracts. Vehicles are financed over a 36-, 48- or 60-month term with payments amortized over a term of up to 96 months and the pre-determined residual balance payable at the end of the contract. At contract's end, customers have the choice of: (i) returning their vehicle through a Kia dealership with no further obligations (except payment of a $399 return fee and excess wear and tear, mileage and similar charges if exceeding 24,000 km per year allowance); (ii) financing the remaining balance for the rest of the amortization period at then-current standard rates; or (iii) paying the residual balance indicated on the bill of sale in full. Some conditions apply. FlexChoice Financing offered by TD in Quebec is subject to different terms and conditions. All advertised FlexChoice financing offers are TD offers. Delivery and destination fees (up to $1,650), other fees ($34), OMVIC fee, Environmental Fee and A/C Tax (where applicable) are included. Taxes, licence, insurance, registration, excess mileage, wear and tear charges, any retailer administration fees and other applicable fees and charges are not included. FlexChoice Financing is provided on approved credit through TD Financing Services. Your Option Date is set out on your TD Financing Services Payment Advantage Loan Certificate (the "Certificate"), which contains the terms and conditions governing your Return Value Option. If you exercise your Return Value Option, a return fee of $399 must be paid by you (not applicable in the province of Quebec) and you will be responsible for excess kilometer charges, excess wear and tear, and any other amounts as specified in your Certificate. The remaining loan balance will be subject to then-applicable TD Financing Services rates and fees. Retailers may sell for less. See participating retailers for complete details. Representative example based on 2012 Forte Sedan base model (FD54JC) 2012 Rio5 (RD5SJC) with a purchase price of $17,484/$15,584 financed at 0%/2.9% APR over 60/48 months with $0 down, bi-weekly payments of $94/$108 for a cost of borrowing of $0/$1,184 and a total obligation of $16,984/$16,765. Includes delivery and destination fees of $1,455, other fees, OMVIC fee ($34), Environmental Fee and A/C Tax (where applicable). 2012 Forte (FD54JC) Rio5 (RD5SJC) includes $500 FlexChoice credit. Certain restrictions apply. Taxes, PPSA, licence, insurance, registration, excess mileage, wear and tear charges, any administration or other applicable fees or charges are not included. Dealer may sell for less. See dealer for details. ▲Cash purchase price for 2011 Optima (OP54TB) is $22,084 and includes a cash savings of $1,500 based on an MSRP of $23,584. Delivery and destination fees of $1,455, other fees of $34, OMVIC fee, Environmental Fee and A/C Tax ($100, where applicable) are included. Licence, insurance, applicable taxes, PPSA, dealer administration fees of up to $699 and registration fees are extra. Retailer may sell for less. See dealer for full details. Available at participating dealers. ^Loyalty Bonus offer available on 2011 Optima Hybrid at a value of $1,250 for any current Kia owners towards the purchase or lease of a new 2011MY Optima Hybrid. Loyalty Bonus offer applicable to cash purchase, lease and purchase financing only before January 31, 2012. Offer is Transferable within same household only (must provide proof of address). Limit of one bonus per customer or household. Certain restrictions apply. See dealer for details. ¥Optima Competitive Bonus offer in the amount of $1,000 available on the purchase or lease of a new 2011 Optima Hybrid models for owners of most current competitive hybrid vehicles with proof of ownership. See dealer or kia.ca for eligibility of competitive vehicles and full program details. Certain restrictions apply. Competitive Bonus amounts will be deducted from the negotiated purchase/lease price before taxes. Offers are transferable within same household (must provide proof of address). Limit of one bonus per Kia vehicle and per eligible competitive vehicle. Offer not combinable with any other loyalty/conquest offers. Offer ends January 31, 2012. ‡2012 Kia Forte/2011 Kia Optima awarded the Top Safety Pick by the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety. Visit www.iihs.org for full details. ^2011 Optima awarded 2012 Auto123.com Midsize Car of the Year. Visit auto123.com/en/awards for more details. ‡‡CO-Credit for 2011 Optima Hybrid is $1,000 and is applicable to the purchase or lease of a new 2011 Kia Optima Hybrid. Available at participating dealers. Certain restrictions apply. See dealer for details. *Highway/city fuel consumption of these vehicles may vary. These estimates are based on the Government of Canada's approved criteria and testing methods. Refer to the Government of Canada publication *EnerGuide Fuel Consumption Guide*. Some conditions apply to the $500 Grad Rebate Program. See dealer for details. Information in this advertisement is believed to be accurate at the time of print. For more information on our 5-year warranty coverage, visit kia.ca or call us at 1-877-542-2886. Kia Canada is the official automotive sponsor of Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD Canada). KIA and FlexChoice are trademarks of Kia Motors Corporation.